



## Thomas Gerald McCarthy

October 3, 1960 - April 6, 2015

Thomas Gerald McCarthy, 54, of Houston passed away Monday, April 6, 2015. Tom was born October 3, 1960 in Detroit, Michigan to Gerald and Yvonne McCarthy. He is preceded in death by his father and is survived by his mother, Yvonne Hyde McCarthy; children, Jason McCarthy & wife Melissa, Nickole McCarthy-Serna & husband Robert; grandchildren, Mia and Ava McCarthy; brothers & sisters, Sharon McCarthy, Shawn McCarthy, Kathleen McCarthy, Colleen Witherspoon, Jerry McCarthy as well as numerous nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

Tom was a man who appreciated the simple things in life. He had tremendous love for his children, grandchildren & family. He enjoyed telling a great story, working hard, and cooking. He loved traveling to wonderful vacations spots such as Alaska, Grand Cayman, Jamaica, Aruba and Mexico. He was an avid outdoorsman with a knack for fishing. He could repair almost anything and had numerous projects going on. Tom was always known to reach out to his friends and family to help out wherever he could. He was a longtime member of the UA Road Sprinkler Fitters Local #669. He was most proud of his children and being a grandfather. Above all, Tom was a loving son, father, grandfather and friend. He was loved by those who knew him and will be greatly missed.

The McCarthy family will be present to receive friends for a Memorial

Visitation to celebrate his life Wednesday, April 15, 2015 from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM at Dettling Funeral Home, 14094 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77079.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

APR **15**. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home  
14094 Memorial Drive  
Houston, TX 77079  
(281) 497-2121  
[david@dettlingfuneral.com](mailto:david@dettlingfuneral.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas Gerald McCarthy*

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *Thomas Gerald McCarthy*

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *Thomas Gerald McCarthy*

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



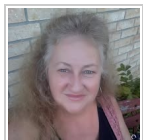
“ *Thomas Gerald McCarthy*

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM



“ *Hard to believe it'll be almost a year that we lost our sweet Thomas Mccarthy my prayers and thoughts with all that knew him.*

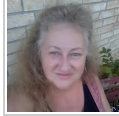
**Colleen mccarthy** - March 21, 2016 at 10:55 PM



“ *Melanie Brewer lit a candle in memory of Thomas Gerald McCarthy*



**Melanie Brewer** - November 25, 2015 at 01:47 AM



*To be Tom's friend was such a treat for all of us. He could make you laugh till you couldn't breathe. Tom and I loved a good debate and enjoyed trying to prove the other wrong. Nickole and Jason, you sure had a great dad.. God Bless*

**Melanie Brewer** - November 25, 2015 at 01:55 AM



“ *Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Gerald McCarthy.*



April 15, 2015 at 02:56 PM



“ *I remember the Astros games you took Jason and I too, the times we would go and ride the dirt bikes, or even when you took us to remodel a house for habitat for humanity. that old brown truck(Brownie) tho. You sure did loved that Cadillac. the late night talks we would have when we both lived with jason a few years back..priceless..... you were a character Tom..you will surely be missed.....Love you man!  
-Michael Carlson*

**mike carlson** - April 14, 2015 at 09:02 PM



*Thank you so much Michael for sharing your memories.*

**Nickole McCarthy-Serna** - April 17, 2015 at 09:57 AM

CN

“ Christopher N. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Thomas Gerald McCarthy.



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Christopher N. - April 14, 2015 at 04:43 PM

SM

“ My brother Tom, always so funny, full of trust, loved to show me "all I didn't know". One week-end afternoon, he let me talk him into allowing me to take his prized mini-bike for a short ride. Quick instruction from him: (brake pedal, gas) and I assured him that I was ready to go! He trusted me!! (I'd never ridden a mini-bike in my life!!) Off I went, flying straight up the narrow sidewalk in between our childhood house on Chapel, and the neighbors house, the Clément's. I was screaming with excitement as my speed and prowess increased. I was goooood at this until I mistook the gas handlebar grip for the breaks, and went hurling right up that skinny sidewalk straight through our side gate, across the brick patio, and clear through the backyard! I was paralyzed with fear, Tom running after me screaming for me to stop at the top of his lungs. It was a strange rush, the speed, the fear, Tom going berserk, the terror of it all. I would be in Northern Canada were it not for me running smack into a tree stump, being thrown off, and watching as Tom chased down the rider less mini-bike to the very back of our yard! I did make another key error: I began to laugh at him and the situation almost as soon as I hit the ground. Tom didn't speak to me for some time after that!

My love, prayers, and comfort to all who loved him. - - Shawn - -

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Shawn McCarthy - April 13, 2015 at 02:39 PM

CM

*Thanks Shawn this was funny....*

**Colleen McCarthy** - April 28, 2015 at 05:46 PM

MX

“ *Martha Snow & Joe Xuereb purchased the Sacred Cross Bouquet for the family of Thomas Gerald McCarthy.*



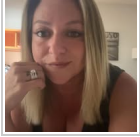
**Martha Snow & Joe Xuereb** - April 13, 2015 at 02:22 PM

JD

“ *Joanie Duckworth purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Thomas Gerald McCarthy.*



**Joanie Duckworth** - April 13, 2015 at 12:32 PM



“ So many memories of such a loving and kind uncle. Still one of my favorites is sitting in his lap in the brown truck at the bank parking lot while he was teaching me how to drive..i may have given him, nickole and myself concussions that day as I didn't quite get the concept of the clutch lol. He was just so patient though and instead of getting mad he laughed. It just goes to show how loving he was and his love for children especially. I swear that he could parallel park in a spot a snail might not fit. I was always so impressed by that. Him and nickole had a father daughter bond so close that you normally only see in movies or read in books and my heart goes out to her right now as well as robert, Jason, melissa, his grandchildren and the rest of his family. Until We Meet Again One Day Uncle Tom, I'll Love you always

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**Kelly Rojas** - April 12, 2015 at 07:33 PM

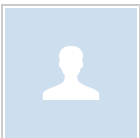


“ *Exotic Grace* was purchased for the family of Thomas Gerald McCarthy.



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April 12, 2015 at 04:37 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Thomas Gerald McCarthy.



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April 10, 2015 at 11:34 PM

BS

“ I met Tom in 1982 he was on the very first job I was sent to in this trade. It was a terminal at Hobby airport. We both then went to the Enron building downtown and worked that job for a long while. A lot of great memories. Never a dull moment when working with Tom. I learned a lot about this trade from Tom. He was a good brother and a good friend. Definitely one of a kind. The angels in heaven must have been in need of a great story teller. RIP my friend and prayers for the family to get through this difficult time.

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**Billy Smith** - April 10, 2015 at 10:20 PM

JE

“ I was very sad to hear the loss of my old friend and union brother. Tom and I worked together in the mid 80s in Houston. To many of us he was known as "Tom Terrific". I was hoping to see him at the next union meeting, as many years have passed between us. God bless the family God bless Brother Tom. With deepest respect,  
John Ertz Smithville, Texas

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**John Ertz** - April 10, 2015 at 04:11 PM



Thank you so much for sharing John.

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**Nickole McCarthy-Serna** - April 10, 2015 at 05:34 PM



“ Pink Lily and Yellow Rose Mix (Silk Cemetery Flowers) was purchased for the family of Thomas Gerald McCarthy.



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April 10, 2015 at 04:03 PM

RS

“ Pop tarts and pudding!!!.

Robert J. Serna - April 10, 2015 at 10:12 AM

GM

“ Being new to the McCarthy family, I only met Tom once. We spent a week together at Kathleen's lake house on Rifle Lake, the site of plenty of McCarthy history. Simply put, Tom was larger than life. I quickly learned that he was gifted. Whether it was the gift of telling a story or knowing how everything worked and if broken how it could be repaired, Tom could do it all. And his energy was boundless.

During our winter months up north, Kathleen and I would look around the house, see Tom's work from last summer and ask each other ...."is Tom going to "come up north" this summer?" I think I already know the answer. He is already there. He loved the lake house.

May his memory be eternal.

Geo Malis

George Malis - April 10, 2015 at 06:15 AM



Thank you so much Geo for sharing.

Nickole McCarthy-Serna - April 10, 2015 at 05:35 PM

JA

“ When Nickole first called me with the terrible news I was not sure what to say other than I am so sorry. Tom was and will always be like a second father to me. I miss him so much already. I had the pleasure of meeting Tom over 20 years ago when I met his daughter who is and will forever be the best friend that anyone could ever ask for. I love Nickole so much and am grateful that I met her and her family. I miss and love you dad! You will never be forgotten:-) If there is one thing I can promise you forever is that I will take care of your daughter until we see you again.

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jamie - April 10, 2015 at 05:41 AM

VT

“ VT

*Vic Tipton*

*Tom and I met in 1986 at work we quickly became friends and worked together on many jobs we enjoyed competing against each other on the job and off, and had a great time for years. Tom would be the first one to come and help you no matter how hard the task or how long it took he was fiercely loyal to his friends and unafraid of his foes. once with my first child was born in my vehicle broke down I was unable to afford to fix it Tom lent me his old brown Ford pickup truck for over a month until I could acumulate the cash to repair my own vehicle, he refused any repayment for the loan of that and I was forever grateful.another time after I had severely injured my back , Tom and another friend of mine Jim Dostalic came over and dug 30 fence post holes in the middle of summer in the hardest ground imaginable with an old worn out pair of post hole diggers and the only payment either of them would take was a steak dinner and cold beer and a handshake.there were numerous other occasions when he rendered similar help there's not enough space on this page to write of them, Tom was always the life of the party (and we attended several) and we spent many hours playing pool and shuffleboard in some of the Finer icehouses of Houston. anyway you could always count on my friend Tom no matter what the trouble and he knew the same about me, and I'm sure going to miss that guy.*

*?Write a comment...*

*?Post*

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**Vic Tipton** - April 10, 2015 at 12:17 AM

KK

“ Growing up with Tom was always a blast... as a friend he was always there for me... the life of every party, he had the best jokes and stories to tell. Always made me laugh. As a brother in law he was wonderful, he went along with all the wild rides with this family. As a father, one of the best!! He loved children of all ages, he always found time to play at any given time. As a Godfather to our daughter he felt it was an honor and treated her as a special one. In my darkest of times he gave me hope and told me I had beautiful words for children. He once told me as I was talking to a child that was grieving "Those are the most beautiful words I have ever heard anyone say to a child" and that is who Tom McCarthy was... a wonderful friend, brother in law father and Uncle.  
I will miss you my friend...



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**Karen Kipp** - April 09, 2015 at 10:40 PM



*Thank you for sharing this!*

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**Nickole McCarthy-Serna** - April 09, 2015 at 11:31 PM

VT

*Tom and I met in 1986 at work we quickly became friends and worked together on many jobs we enjoyed competing against each other on the job and off, and had a great time for years. Tom would be the first one to come and help you no matter how hard the task or how long it took he was fiercely loyal to his friends and unafraid of his foes. once with my first child was born in my vehicle broke down I was unable to afford to fix it Tom lent me his old brown Ford pickup truck for over a month until I could accumulate the cash to repair my own vehicle, he refused any repayment for the loan of that and I was forever grateful. another time after I had severely injured my back , Tom and another friend of mine Jim Dostalic came over and dug 30 fence post holes in the middle of summer in the hardest ground imaginable with an old worn out pair of post hole diggers and the only payment either of them would take was a steak dinner and cold beer and a handshake. there were numerous other occasions when he rendered similar help there's not enough space on this page to write of them, Tom was always the life of the party (and we attended several) and we spent many hours playing pool and shuffleboard in some of the Finer icehouses of Houston. anyway you could always count on my friend Tom no matter what the trouble and he knew the same about me, and I'm sure going to miss that guy.*

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**Vic Tipton** - April 10, 2015 at 12:04 AM

SD

“ *My heart is breaking for you Nickole, Jason, Colleen and the entire family. You all will be in my heart and prayers during this difficult time.*

*I feel like family...I been friends with Karen since the early 80's, before they moved to Houston. I have fond memories of Tom and Colleen coming to visit with Karen & Steve... we had SOOO much fun! Tom and Steve were SO entertaining. Even tho the years of raising kids and the miles have kept me from visiting very often...you guys will always feel like family. All my love, Shelley Daugherty*

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**Shelley Daugherty** - April 09, 2015 at 09:14 PM



*Shelley, thank you so much for sharing your memories of my father. I'm so glad you had the chance to know him.*

**Nickole McCarthy-Serna** - April 09, 2015 at 10:40 PM

MM

*“ My condolences to the McCarthy family. May it help you and your family to know that Isaiah 26:19 read: "Your dead will live, My corpses will rise up. Awake and shout joyfully, you resident in the dust...the earth will let those powerless in death, come to life" Please find some strength and comfort knowing this and your sweet memories, in your time of need.*

**mary miller** - April 09, 2015 at 06:47 PM



*Thank you Mary. How did you know my father?*

**Nickole McCarthy-Serna** - April 09, 2015 at 10:41 PM



*“ Bountiful Rose Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Gerald McCarthy.*



April 09, 2015 at 06:09 PM

BR

“ *Heaven gained another angel, My Uncle will truly be missed by everyone that knew him. Although he lived down South he has always been someone I could talk to and could make me laugh. He inspired me to read books I would never think to read and I could not thank him enough. I will never forget the Christmas we didn't have snow and him along with my dad and Uncle Jerry went to the ice rink around the block and put snow on the lawn so we would have a white Christmas. Thank you for everything you have taught me and I know you will always be watching over me. I love you Uncle Tom! Rest in Paradise*

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**Brittany** - April 09, 2015 at 04:42 PM



*I didn't know the snow story. Thank you for sharing this memory!*

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**Nickole McCarthy-Serna** - April 09, 2015 at 10:41 PM

GH

“ *My condolences to the members of the McCarthy Family. Tom was my cousin, and while we hadn't seen one another in many years, I have happy memories of him from childhood. Tom will be remembered in the prayers of my community here in Saint Paul, MN.*

*Gregory Hyde, S.J.*

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**Gregory Hyde** - April 09, 2015 at 03:22 PM



*Thank you cousin Gregory. I would love to hear about and special memories or stories you may have of him in his younger years.*

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**Nickole McCarthy-Serna** - April 09, 2015 at 03:28 PM

MM

*Nickole, like Gregory, I was one of Tom's cousins. I was good cousin-friends with his sisters and remember that I would tease him for his ears (I know, so mean-girl). Tom was always so sweet, with an angelic face and demeanor. I moved to the west coast in the late 1980's and haven't seen Tom in many years.*

*Please know that I am thinking of you and your entire family at this time and will always remember Tom as a really good guy.*

*Mary Jo (Valiquett) Mehl  
Seattle*

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**Mary Jo Mehl** - April 10, 2015 at 05:30 PM

AM

*“ Tom was quite the wild thing when we were young. I remember he was always taking a car and dropping the biggest engine that could fit into it, extras just took up important engine space. One memory I will always have is a carload of us pulling into a parking lot where a team (I think soccer) was practicing near. Tom suddenly turns the wheel and floors it to make a donut with a huge smoke ring rising into the sky. We were all laughing and choking on smoke at the same time as the soccer practice halted to give a standing ovation. John Kauffman was there with us. It has been a long time. Goodbye Tom. You are someone I'll always remember with a smile.*

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**Andy Massie** - April 09, 2015 at 12:30 PM



*Thank you for sharing this story. My dad like to tell elaborate stories that would sometimes make us wonder and it's delightful to know some had truth to them.*

*Nickole Mccarthy-Serna*

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**Nickole McCarthy-Serna** - April 09, 2015 at 12:58 PM

AG

*I knew Tom for a very short time. But he has a very special sense of h'l'm or which makes me smile. ... we will miss him at VIP Systems... he was a very proud of what he was doing and did always an excellent job.*

*Alex Genin*

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**Akex Genin** - April 09, 2015 at 03:24 PM

CM

“*My heart is sadden for the Lost of Thomas G McCarthy. I feel for our Children Jason & Nickole and their spouses, our Grandchildren and his Family members. He was a great Father to our children and he will be missed deeply. He was a great story teller big time, he enjoyed life too. We grew up together in Detroit, Michigan and move to Texas in 1979. Many good memories with him over the years. He also said to have a party for him and not be sad at the time of his Death. You will be missed Tom.....*

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**Colleen Heyart McCarthy** - April 09, 2015 at 10:41 AM