



Mr Thomas Richard Van Valkenburgh

July 29, 2013

Van Valkenburgh, Thomas "Van", age 56, of Oradell, NJ formerly of Pine Hill, NY, passed suddenly on Monday, July 29, 2013. Beloved husband of Linda (nee La Forgia). Devoted father of Tom and Zach. Dear brother of Debbie Van Valkenburgh. Cherished uncle to many loving nieces and nephews. Van was an Army veteran, Scoutmaster for Oradell Cub Scout Pack #136 and Assistant Scoutmaster of Oradell Boy Scout troop #36. Relatives and friends are invited to visit on Wednesday 4-8 Pm at Volk Leber Funeral Home, 268 Kinderkamack Road, Oradell, NJ. A funeral service will commence at 11:30 AM on Thursday at the funeral home. Cremation will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts in Van's name to the Oradell Fire Department, 355 Kinderkamack Road, Oradell, NJ 07649, would be appreciated.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 31. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Oradell
268 Kinderkamack Rd.
Oradell, NJ 07649
(201) 261-1088
info@volkleber.com
<https://www.volkleber.com>

Service

AUG 1. 11:30 AM (ET)

Oradell
268 Kinderkamack Rd.
Oradell, NJ 07649
(201) 261-1088
info@volkleber.com
<https://www.volkleber.com>

Tribute Wall



“ Volk Leber Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr Thomas Richard Van Valkenburgh



Volk Leber Funeral Home - July 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Mr Thomas Richard Van Valkenburgh

October 08, 2023 at 09:59 PM



“ Mr Thomas Richard Van Valkenburgh

October 08, 2023 at 06:27 PM



“ Mr Thomas Richard Van Valkenburgh

August 30, 2022 at 02:48 PM

DV

“ Linda, Thank you and your family for loving my brother, for giving him the home and closeness of family he always longed for. Thank you for helping him achieve his goals, realize his dreams and make his way through the world. Thank you for giving him two beautiful children to carry forth his name. Thank you for a million smiles you lit in his eyes. He was so good. I mean Good, with a capital G. Even as a child, he was Good. He never said an unkind word about anyone. He never hurt anyone. He was always better than he had to be. He was always ready to help anyone, everyone. I remember him being 9 years old and carrying heavy bags of groceries for elderly ladies in our town, raking mountains of leaves and shoveling snow off sidewalks. He would shovel huge mounds off snow for people who would offer him a quarter, yep 25 cents, for half a day's shoveling and he would always cheerfully tell them, no, that's okay. I' m glad I could do it for you.



We spent alot of time in the woods. When we would find injured birds in the forest he would care for them and try to nurse them back to health. When they died, he would conduct proper funerals for them. He was always about Honor and Dignity. He was always about Compassion and Service. He went to Church every Sunday, without being asked to. He loved music and poetry and comedy. He was like a little Shaman climbing the Catskill mountains alone, to commune with Nature, taking the Applachian trail to places, filled with bears and mountain lions. He was never afraid and he was always safe in the woods. It was his domain.

He was an excellent student. I don't think he ever missed a day of school. He always did his homework. He always read more than his required reading. There wasn't anything he couldn't learn and master.

He worked hard because it was how he was raised He was always told that you have to work hard if you are going to make anything good of your life. He was told that work was service to others and to always work more than you had to, to do a better job than what you were paid to do, To do your best and God would reward you.

He took care of our father in his last years and was a devoted son who with Linda's help took on the entire responsibility for his care and well being. He did this with honor and kindness beyond, far beyond, what duty required.

His early life was hard. It is truly a miracle he even survived it. He quietly bore the burden of all that he suffered and built a life devoted to family, friends and community.

I look for him in every good deed, every kind word, every expression of compassion and love for mankind. I will find him in the stillness of my prayers, roaming my purest thoughts, free of his form, merging his own name into that of the Divine. Waves of love course the ocean of my heart dragging from the depths, the memories of childhood we shared, cresting in the happiness he knew with his wife and sons, expecting Bliss for him in the transition to the Omniscient, the Omnipresent.

Debora Van Valkenburgh - August 01, 2013 at 07:41 AM

DS

“ *In Loving Memory of my Son*

Absent from the body, present with the Lord.

Daphne Sandt

Daphne Sandt - August 01, 2013 at 06:24 AM

IF

“ *Izzy Falcon lit a candle in memory of Mr Thomas Richard Van Valkenburgh*



Izzy Falcon - August 01, 2013 at 02:01 AM

PM

“ Van my brother my friend you will be missed dearly.



Peter Moccia - July 31, 2013 at 07:17 AM

ER

“ Lit a candle in memory of Mr Thomas Richard Van Valkenburgh, in my name and the names of all Waste Management commercial drivers; our condolences to the family.

Ed Rodriguez - July 30, 2013 at 06:35 PM

GF

“ Greg And Penny Finch lit a candle in memory of Mr Thomas Richard Van Valkenburgh



Greg and Penny Finch - July 30, 2013 at 05:15 PM

RV

“ *Linda, Thomas and Zach,
We are deeply saddened by the loss of your husband and father.
We have and will continue to cherish the great times that we
experienced with and due to Van in his community service. He was
a great man and will be missed by many that were lucky to be
touched by his life.*

You are in our thoughts and prayers....

Dick, Janet, Robert and Jamie Vartanian

Richard Vartanian - July 30, 2013 at 04:39 PM

BB

“ *Bonnie (Rossman) Bonfili & Ben Bonfili lit a
candle in memory of Mr Thomas Richard Van
Valkenburgh*



Bonnie (Rossman) Bonfili & Ben Bonfili - July 30, 2013 at 01:43 PM

BB

“ *Bonnie(Rossman) Bonfili and Ben Bonfili
purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the
family of Mr Thomas Richard Van Valkenburgh.*



Bonnie(Rossman) Bonfili and Ben Bonfili - July 30, 2013 at
01:31 PM

NG

“ *My heart, thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Tom. He will definitely be missed.*



Najeeb Gonzalez - July 30, 2013 at 12:14 PM

PW

“ *Pam Wynne lit a candle in memory of Mr Thomas Richard Van Valkenburgh*



Pam Wynne - July 30, 2013 at 11:44 AM

PW

Linda, Tom and Zach, I feel so badly. What a great guy. I enjoyed speaking with him at Rachel's and Constantine's wedding. I enjoyed the New Year's Day at your home. You are in my prayers by name this week and your whole extended family.

Pam Wynne - July 30, 2013 at 02:55 PM

AM

“ *Dear Linda, Thomas and Zach,
I am so sorry for your loss. We thank Tom for all he has contributed to our community. This is a real loss for Oradell.
Love,
Amy May*

Amy May - July 30, 2013 at 10:58 AM

RP

“ Rudy Perez lit a candle in memory of Mr
Thomas Richard Van Valkenburgh



Rudy Perez - July 30, 2013 at 10:39 AM

DF

“ Dear Linda, Tom and Zach,

*No one who is remembered
is ever truly gone.
Van will live on
in the hearts of many
who will never forget him.
We are hoping
you will find comfort
in warm and great memories
of the always smiley gentle man
your dear friend and husband and one of kind Dad.*

Elliot, Dorith, Dean and Guy Finkelstein



Dorith Finkelstein - July 30, 2013 at 09:58 AM

TF

“ *Linda, Thomas and Zach,
We are devistated to hear about the loss of your husband, your Dad
and a great great man in the community. We hope that knowing that
Van will live on in the memories of all the many many lives that he
touched, will help ease your pain. The world was made a better
place through all that Van did !!*

You are all in our thoughts.....

Charles, Zuzana, Ryan, Kevin and Kyle Geer

The Geer family - July 30, 2013 at 07:20 AM

CG

“ *Charles And Zuzana Geer lit a candle in
memory of Mr Thomas Richard Van
Valkenburgh*



Charles and Zuzana Geer - July 30, 2013 at 07:07 AM

TF

“ *The Geer Family lit a candle in memory of Mr
Thomas Richard Van Valkenburgh*



The Geer Family - July 30, 2013 at 07:05 AM

TF

“ *The Thomson Family lit a candle in memory of Mr Thomas Richard Van Valkenburgh*



The Thomson Family - July 30, 2013 at 06:43 AM

TF

Our DEEPEST sympathy and condolences to Linda, Tom and Zach. You are in our thoughts. The Thomson Family, Joanne , Mark and Justin.

The Thomson Family - July 30, 2013 at 06:46 AM

DV

“ *Debora Vanalkenburgh lit a candle in memory of Mr Thomas Richard Van Valkenburgh*



Debora Vanalkenburgh - July 29, 2013 at 09:10 PM