



## Thomas Monroe Richards III

December 17, 1950 - November 24, 2021

Thomas Monroe Richards III, of Anna, Illinois, passed into the full presence of his loving father God after a 16-year battle with young onset Alzheimer's disease surrounded by the love of his family on Wednesday, November 24, 2021.

Tom dedicated a good part of his 71 years of life serving others. He earned a Special Education Bachelor of Science degree from SIU in 1972 and proceeded to teach people with developmental disabilities at what is now the Clyde L. Choate Mental Health and Development Center in Anna, IL. There Tom also served as Union President, Assistant Director, Director, and Network Manager, overseeing the IL state run mental health agencies in 16 southern Illinois counties. In the early 80s he also served as Director at the Alton Mental Health Center, Alton, IL.

With a growing passion for the underserved senior population Tom earned a Masters Degree in Social Work from SIU. He worked at Delta Center in Cairo, IL to finish out his career of service.

Tom's kindness, humility, and sweet, quirky sense of humor will be missed by many. He loved his horses and living in the country. He thoroughly enjoyed SIU Basketball, trips abroad, all kinds of music, arts and culture. But mostly Tom loved people; he deeply loved his family, and took special joy in his

children, grandchildren, two foreign exchange daughters, and his Goddaughter with the exciting, full life they provided. He dearly loved the people he served and the people he worked with. He was a mentor, a missionary, an elder and a disciple of Christ.

These words from a slip of paper found in Tom's wallet embodied how he lived, "And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same." -Marianne Williamson, A Return to Love: Reflections on a Principle of "A Course in Miracles"

Husband to Jenny Richards and the late Pamela Moreland Richards, mother of his two children, Seth Joseph Richards and daughter Courtney Beth Misener (Derek), Son to the late Reverend Thomas M. Richards Jr. and the late Mary Elizabeth Richards "Betty", brother to Mike (Darlene), Linda Daugherty (Mick) and Jim (Joann); grandfather to Presli Elizabeth Garner, and Grayson Thomas Garner. Extended father to two foreign exchange students Cinthya Guerra Luna – Peru, Hanna Markos – Germany, and Godpoppa to Tyeisha Mallory

Visitation will take place on Friday, December 3, 2021 at Crain Funeral Home in Anna from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. and again Saturday, December 4, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. until the hour of the service at Crain Funeral Home in Anna. Funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 4, 2021 at Crain Funeral Home in Anna. Interment will take place at the Cobden Cemetery. The funeral service will be live streamed on the Crain Funeral Home Facebook page and will be archived for future views at the conclusion of the service.

Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Association Illinois Chapter of Marion, Rosiclare Rehab and Health Care Center, or Arrowleaf, formerly Delta Center of Cairo, and will be accepted at the funeral home.

Crain Funeral Home in Anna-Jonesboro has been entrusted with arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Cobden Cemetery

N Appleknocker Drive  
Cobden, IL 62920

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 3. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Crain Funeral Home - Anna  
135 W. Vienna St.  
Anna, IL 62906  
(618) 833-2176  
crain@crainsonline.com

## Visitation

DEC 4. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Crain Funeral Home - Anna  
135 W. Vienna St.  
Anna, IL 62906  
(618) 833-2176  
crain@crainsonline.com

## Funeral Service

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DEC 4. 11:00 AM (CT)

Crain Funeral Home - Anna  
135 W. Vienna St.  
Anna, IL 62906  
(618) 833-2176  
[crain@crainsonline.com](mailto:crain@crainsonline.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas Monroe Richards III*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayer are with Jenny and Tom's family. Tom & I were roommates after college and some of the fondest memories in my life were the times spent with Tom. He blessed so many people with his loving kindness. His wittiness and his smile are something I will never forget.*

**Ted Williams** - December 01, 2021 at 08:29 PM



“ *As Tom's circle of friends shifted and expanded, we were blessed to be somewhere in that circle from high school forward. . . although we knew little in recent years due to his complex illness. Our most special times were weekends as our young families were developing-- Pam and I enjoyed many heartfelt discussions regarding our choices for our children. I have missed her, but have enjoyed seeing those two grow into adulthood. We appreciate that Jenny gave several of his old friends a pleasant day together several years ago. We also have the memory of his eulogizing our friend in common, Tim Wagner, where his heart lay bare. Our wishes for your courage in moving forward, while holding fast the hope of the promised Resurrection. Our love,*

*Cindy McClellan (David) Jones*

**Cindy R Jones** - December 01, 2021 at 07:31 PM



“ [Memorial Trees](https://www.crainsonline.com/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was purchased for the family of Thomas M. Richards.

December 01, 2021 at 06:07 PM



“ With sympathy and prayers to Jenny and the family

**Sharon Smaga** - December 01, 2021 at 02:39 PM



“ My sympathy and prayers to Tom's family. I have known Tom since 1972 working with him at Choate Mental Health Center. He was always a sweet and kind person and always cared about others. I am proud to have known him for all of these years. May he rest in peace in the arms of our Lord.



**Marianne Dillow** - December 01, 2021 at 11:45 AM



“ My thoughts, prayers, and sympathy to Tom's family.  
Sharon Disney

**Sharon Disney** - December 01, 2021 at 09:36 AM



“ Jenny, Seth and Courtney: we are so sorry for your loss. Sending love and prayers to all of you as you go through this difficult time. Let the memories of Tom's life comfort you, and know that he is now resting in the arms of his Lord. Mary Jane and Randy Edmonds💔

**Randy and Mary Jane Edmonds** - December 01, 2021 at 07:59 AM

TJ

“ *Jenny and family,  
I am so sorry for your loss. Sending my  
prayers for strength and comfort in this  
difficult time. Love you Jenny.*  
Sincerely,  
Tracie Jernigan 🙏



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**Tracie Jernigan** - November 27, 2021 at 09:22 PM