



Thomas M. “Big Tom” McCraith III



Thomas M. McCraith III, 62, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, April 4, 2017, at the Pines at Utica after a courageous battle with Multiple Sclerosis. Tom was born on August 16, 1954, in Utica, the son of the late Thomas M. and Joan M. (Hughes) McCraith, Jr. He was a graduate of Notre Dame High School and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from Le Moyne College. On October 24, 1981, Tom married Mary Loftus in the Church of Our Lady of the Rosary, a union of 35 years. He was a Case Manager with MetLife prior to his illness.

Surviving besides his beloved wife, Mary are two daughters, Shauna (Kasey) Eakins, Utica and Shannon (Matthew) Vescera, Frankfort; sisters, Barbara McCraith, PhD, Pennsylvania and Cindy (Jerry) Stocker, Sauquoit; brother, Gregory McCraith, DDS, Bridgeport and several cousins, nieces and nephews. Tom also leaves close friends, Mark Nassif, Gary Queck, Wayne Kinville and Richard Radomski and his canine companions, Sophie, AnnaBelle and Izzy. Tom loved his family and was a great husband and father. He was a guy’s guy who had a wonderful sense of humor and was a real joker. Tom believed “All roads lead to Sylvan Beach”, a favorite spot. He also enjoyed snowmobiling, motorcycles, and camping.

Tom learned to ride when he was sixteen years old. He was an avid rider till he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2012. He was loved by many. He had been involved with two motorcycle clubs through the years. Tom taught many to ride. His passion for riding was seen by anyone who would talk about motorcycles with him. This usually would last an hour or so if you got him started. One of my fondness memories is him teaching me how to ride and arguing with DMV tester about the blinker not working. “This is not my brother’s fault but mine and should not count against him for his license.” He did pass me. Another is stealing his bike when he was at work and taking off for a long ride. Before he died, he told me he knew I did that but who could deny anyone who loved to ride. Tom would take his wife on rides to different rallies. He encouraged her to get her license and her own ride. Which she did get. Tom is missed by his family and friends.