



## Clifford Henry Thomas IV

September 7, 1974 - November 14, 2020

Louie was taken from us too soon on the morning of November 14, 2020

Louie was born September 7th, 1974 in Stockton, Ca. to Clifford Henry Thomas III and Dom Thomas. He grew up in Stockton and went to Calaveras High where he played football and wrestled. After graduating high school he immediately joined the US Navy with several of his friends and served four years on the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier where he worked as a crash and salvage crew member. He received the sea service deployment ribbon and Southwest Asia metal with bronze star.

After his military service he did many jobs, but his favorite by far was being a wrestling coach. He loved wrestling with a passion, loved coaching kids and his sons. On his spare time he loved bodybuilding, riding motorcycles and fishing with his best friend, his dog Bully.

Louie is survived by his wife Erica, his sons Malias, Jordan, Aydin, Chris and his step son Tony. His father Cliff and step-mom Linda. His mother Dom and sister Gaola. His nieces Tommi, Alexis and Faith and numerous Aunts, cousins and friends.

At this time the family ask to please respect their privacy while they are grieving.

In lieu of flowers, we ask that you share a memory with the family, go out and catch a fish, watch a wrestling tournament, adopt a dog. Most of all, tell your loved ones just how much you care about them.

Due to Covid, funeral services will be private and for immediate family.

At a later date we will be having a service at the San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery where family and friends can attend

Louie you are loved and will be missed by so many.

# Tribute Wall



“ Clifford Henry Thomas IV

September 15, 2022 at 09:34 PM



“ Louie had the biggest heart and was always willing to be a rock when you needed him. He became a mentor to my son and a really good friend. He had the most compassionate heart.

Tamara Hiebert - March 07, 2021 at 03:22 PM



“ There are absolutely no words to describe the heartache I feel. Louie and I have remained friends since highschool and he even stayed at my house a few years ago with his boys while they were at a wrestling tournament. Our love for our children, pitbulls, the raiders and relieving our glory days of high school were things we bonded and laughed over, even as adults. Louie was a true friend and it could be 1 month or 5 years since we talked and it was always like no time passed at all. Louie loved his parents and sister so much and he and Sean were true brothers from another mother. I will never forget his infectious laugh and HUGE smile (only dwarfed by his huge muscles). I am so sorry to the Thomas family. Just know he was loved and I will always keep his memory alive inside my heart, I can promise that.

Faun O'Neel - December 28, 2020 at 10:24 PM

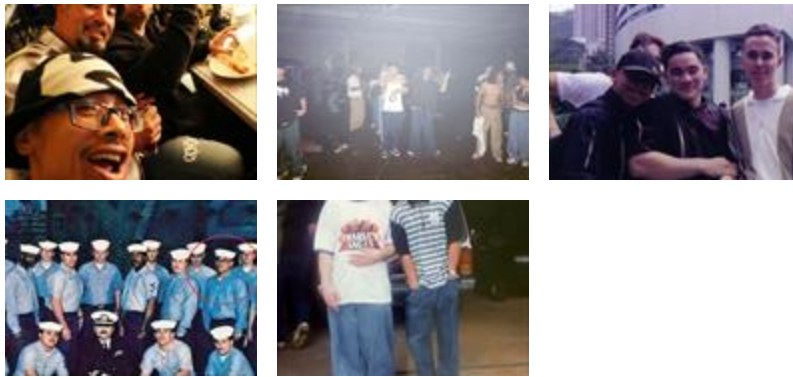
SC

“ I have always save everything in my life. I still have the first teddy bear ever given to me at birth. I found some picture I didnt know I had. And just posted them. I think you will be surprised on how old they are. For the love of Louie...

Sean Carroll - December 09, 2020 at 03:49 PM

SC

“ 9 files added to the album Memories Album



Sean Carroll - December 09, 2020 at 03:39 PM

G)

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Gaola Christensen ( Thomas ) - December 09, 2020 at 12:54 PM

G)

“ NAVY



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**Gaola Christensen ( Thomas )** - December 02, 2020 at 05:51 PM



“ *I met Clifford years ago when he was selling car insurance. We spoke in the phone several times and I decided to give him my business. When I walked in to sign paperwork, he knew it was me without my every describing myself to him. We got it off on site. We became fast friends. When he told me he drove all the way to Modesto each day, I told him I had an extra bedroom not being used. At that point, he became my brother and my children's uncle. Clifford spent many Thanksgivings with our family. I feellike a major part of my and my children's lives has been taken. Clifford acct I have been sick together, gotten well together, we roller bladed together...I can'tsay how long Clifford lived with us. He said it was about three years, but to me, he wasn't with us long enough. Clifford was my brother and my hearty aches like nobody's business.*

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**Katie Holmes-Carter** - December 01, 2020 at 09:34 PM

G)

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



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**Gaola Christensen ( Thomas )** - November 30, 2020 at 01:11 PM



*I remember those pictures very well. I miss you Louie.*

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**Ramona Hand** - December 08, 2020 at 07:22 AM



Caroline  
Osburn

“ *Clifford was one of my very best friends in HS. When he worked at Rosettis, he would call me when he got off work every single night. My parents allowed him and only him to call at such a ridiculous hour for a teen to get a call because how amazing of a friend he was. It didn't matter if I had a boyfriend or not, moody or not, he was there, always. I haven't seen him or talked to him for about 5 years but never did time feel as though it passed when we talked. I will forever hold a special place in my heart dear, Clifford. You are gone far too soon. Until we meet again! Sending love for peace and healing to the whole famil ❤️.*

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**Caroline Osburn** - November 27, 2020 at 04:25 PM



“ *God Speed*

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**sean carroll** - November 24, 2020 at 09:24 PM



“ What Thomas's family may not be aware of is Airman Thomas had 2 or more Letters of commendation. The letter I'm talking about is a very rare letter that a Naval Fleet Admiral an O-8 writes to a soldier for their actions in combat. These letters are called "Letter of Commendation" and are unheard of however if an event in combat is so unbelievable a medal just is not good enough. So the Fleet Admiral will write a personal letter to the soldier praising their actions in combat. I have not heard of any veterans I know receiving this letter. I ended my military service with two letters and Airman Thomas did too however I think Thomas may have had three letters of commendation. I say this because I remember a long time ago Thomas showing me one of his letters of commendation that I was unfamiliar with the story.

*Airman Carroll*

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**sean carroll** - November 24, 2020 at 09:18 PM

G)

*Amazing! Thank you for sharing Sean. Everyone that was close to my brother knows the person he truly was.*

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**Gaola Christensen ( Thomas )** - November 26, 2020 at 12:13 PM

SE

“ On November 14, 2020, my closest military friend Clifford Thomas a man I accredit for saving my life once. And a key person in helping me create the strongest crash and salvage team the navy has ever seen. Has passed away in a traffic accident. We fought each other like brothers, as well we loved each other like brothers in the worst kind of environment during the gulf war. I told him, one day I'll tell the president our military story and he never got to hear that I did just that.

*Airman Carroll*

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**Sean** - November 24, 2020 at 08:02 PM

SE

“ 1 file added to the album Navy



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**sean** - November 24, 2020 at 07:45 PM

AC

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Airman Carroll** - November 24, 2020 at 07:43 PM

AC

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Airman Carroll** - November 24, 2020 at 07:41 PM

AC

“ On November 14, 2020, my closest military friend Clifford Thomas a man I accredit for saving my life once. And a key person in helping me create the strongest crash and salvage team the navy has ever seen. Has passed away in a traffic accident. We fought each other like brothers, as well we loved each other like brothers in the worst kind of environment during the gulf war. I told him, one day I'll tell the president our military story and he never got to hear that I did just that.

*Airman Carroll*

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**Airman Carroll** - November 24, 2020 at 07:33 PM

TB

“ Gaola and family, I am saddened and at a loss for words for your loss of your brother, son, father, uncle and friend to many. Clifford was the life of the party and that's what I remember most about him and his ability to make people laugh. My prayers and condolences are with the entire Thomas family during this time as you grieve.

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**Tina Beristianos** - November 24, 2020 at 05:24 PM

JH

“ Dad loved seeing Gaola and Louie.having fun in their swimming pool when they were kids! ❤️

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**Janet Hanifan** - November 24, 2020 at 03:25 PM

CA

“ My favorite memory with Clifford was when he took me to a Navy Event at the Port of Stockton. We then went to lunch after at El Torito's where I ordered a burger. He teased me about ordering a burger at a Mexican restaurant. I was in high school and had never drove a car before. He pulled the car over on the way home and let me drive. I couldn't reach the pedals so I had to sit on his lap. It was the coolest car ever and he made it even cooler. Clifford was like a big brother to me through high school. He took care of me like I was his little sis. I will always remember him for the loving person he was and for the best smile ever and also for being a genuinely sweet and good person. Love you Clifford. I'm going to miss seeing all the pictures of you with your boys wrestling. You will be missed by so many.

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**Cristina Amestoy** - November 24, 2020 at 02:58 AM

G)

Thank you so much for sharing this memory. It made me tear up. Thank was definitely my brother in high school. Funny, loved to laugh and a good person.

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**Gaola Christensen ( Thomas )** - November 26, 2020 at 12:05 PM

JR

“ I can't get over the fact that your gone bro 😞. My heart hurts when I think about your boyz not having you physically in their corner no more. I've watched Aiden and Chris grow to be young lil men with you always by their side no matter what you were always there for them. Every time I would run into you, you'd always talk about your boyz, even your other son I never met. You had that smile that would even cheer me up when I was having a bad day. And your jokes, man your jokes would get me rolling bro 🤔. I was thinking about something last week when I was at work about the time we were working swing shift at the Tek and it was almost time to go home and you were making your rounds in the little green go cart, and me and Paul were scanning our orders and you were like 60 feet away from us punching the pedal , laughing and telling us what's up guys almost time to go home huh and Baaaaaam you ran into the roll up door that was down and tore it apart! Remember how Ed got all pissed off and wanted to get rid of you all you could do was laugh 😂, so we ended up busting up , because of how funny it looked when you hit the door , and your reaction was hilarious. Thank GOD nothing happened to you but that was funny . One of the things I'll never forget bro. Then the countless times we spent coaching our kids from late 2015 to mid 2017 before me and my family had to move to Madera, but we always saw each other at State and other Wrestling Tournaments. There's so much I can share bro. Just know you mattered , and know that you were loved. You will be missed brotha. Rest Well Cliff my friend 💔

Joey Reyes - November 24, 2020 at 12:30 AM

G)

Thank you so much for sharing these memories. My brother did some funny crazy stuff. He was always cracking up and smiling. He loved those boys!

Gaola Christensen ( Thomas ) - November 26, 2020 at 12:08 PM



“*Louie, was much more than a brother-in-law he was a brotha of mine. If you knew Louie he would be the first person to pick you up and give the shirt off his body. He put his heart towards his baseball teams, and especially his wrestling. He loved his family and those closest to him knew no better ally. Uou will be missed my brotha, but uour impact will not ever be forgotten.*

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**Shaun N Teresa Ramirez** - November 24, 2020 at 12:02 AM



“*Rest easy Louie u were a great genuine person with a huge heart good intentions & a great man to be around... Rest easy brotha*

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**derek ramirez** - November 23, 2020 at 11:53 PM



“*Louie I'm going to miss how you always made me laugh. It didn't matter how long it had been since we had last talked or seen each other, we just picked back up like it was nothing. We had been talking and messaging a lot these last few months and it just doesn't seem real. I miss you so much. Forever your friend Jenn ❤️ I love you Louie*

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**Jenn McAlister** - November 23, 2020 at 10:18 PM



“*I loved Louie' sense of humor and beautiful smile. He always was giving me tips on fitness. I miss you Louie and Greatgrandma Betty was looking forward to laughing with you. You always made her smile.*

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**Ramona Hand** - November 23, 2020 at 12:50 PM



DR

*Rest easy Louie u were a great genuine person with a huge heart good intentions & a great man to be around... Rest easy brotha*

**derek ramirez** - November 23, 2020 at 11:52 PM



*Coach Cliff was one of the most giving and helpful person we knew. About two years ago he took our son Jordyn under his wing and became his personal wrestling coach. He helped Jordyn build confidence and inspired him so much. Our Jordyn would not be the wrestler he is today if it wasn't for him. But he didn't just teach my Jordyn how to become an amazing confident wrestler he also taught my oldest how to be a inspiring coach to his brother as well. We truly appreciated everything he did for our boys. "It is so hard to believe your gone Cliff, my boys are going to miss you so much but we know you will always be with them in spirit and right by Jordyn side on the mat. You will forever be in our hearts and my boys said they will continue your coaching legacy by helping and teaching others what you have taught them ". Rest easy Coach until we meet again. Love, Fuentes Family!*

**Angelica Fuentes** - November 24, 2020 at 06:15 PM



VB

*I am so sorry to hear of Clifford's passing. He wrestled for me at Calaveras HS. Wrestling always shows your true character and Clifford was no exception. He was a great guy who always helped his fellow teammates and always left it all on the mat. His personality would fill the room.*

*I was fortunate to see Clifford at Calaveras HS a few years ago. He brought his sons up to wrestle in our youth tournament and I was able to meet his sons and show them the wrestling room.*

*It was great seeing him again.*

*My most sincere condolences go out to his family. He was a wonderful guy and will be greatly missed.*

**Vince Bicocca** - November 25, 2020 at 06:21 PM



AR

*Coach, you will forever be missed. Thank you for touching my life*

**Alex Rosa** - October 26, 2022 at 11:35 PM