



Thomas Masterson

May 8, 1973 - October 10, 2023

Thomas Eugene Masterson, 50, of Marquand died Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023, at Mercy South Hospital in Saint Louis.

He was born May 8, 1973, in Cape Girardeau to Warren and Alberta Cooper Masterson.

He and Mary Richards were married Sept. 5, 2010, at Clinton, Montana.

Known to many as Tom, Gene or Mountain Man, he had a heart of gold! He was always willing to help anyone who needed him. He was well loved by so many, especially his close-knit family.

Growing up, Gene was a great kid who participated in sports and wrestling, with swimming being his favorite. He grew up with his parents guiding him in the path of the Boy Scouts, eventually becoming an Eagle Scout. This sparked a fire in him for the love of camping and the outdoors. His parents lovingly allowed him to follow his dreams, which turned into a lifetime passion!

As a young man he decided to go live the life of a Mountain Man. Living out West, he gleaned from the knowledge he learned growing up to live the rugged life of Montana for 17 years. Many of those years, he worked as a hunting guide in the Bob Marshall Wilderness and the Anaconda Pintler

Wilderness. He was a man of distinction. Everywhere you saw him, he was in full leathers, black hat and his full beard like a Mountain Man. Tom had a pack string, mules and horses of his own, that he used in the guide service and was very proud to have had the privilege of this kind of work. For him, that was livin'!

After high school, Gene went to Southeast Missouri State University and realized that was not for him. So, he went to a farrier school in Sperry, Oklahoma, graduating in 2011 with a degree in blacksmith farrier science. Tom was a farrier up until his last week on this earth. He loved horses!

He was a corrections officer at Montana State Prison in Deer Lodge. He worked on the barges of the Mississippi River for years, managed a 22,000-acre cattle ranch with 1,600 head for a couple years, was a rural carrier for the U.S. Postal Service, worked for Madison County (Missouri) Road and Bridge and, lastly, Missouri State Conservation Department, which he loved! Tom was a lifetime member of the American Mountain Men Association, he was a Mason, he was a baptized man of God, he was the jokester of the party, hated large crowds, but loved his peace, his farm, family and animals.

He and Mary moved back to Missouri, creating a farm in 2013. They worked together on everything, working out their ideas and dreams into reality. They made a homestead to be proud of!

He will be greatly missed by all who loved him and those that knew him well.

Survivors include his wife; parents; two sisters, Sherri (Cliff) Head of Lowell, Arkansas, and Shelly (Nils) Eyberg of St. Louis; four nephews, Levi Head, LeShaun Gochett, Jordan Gochett and Joseph Eyberg; and a niece, Maggie Eyberg.

He was preceded in death by a niece, Amy Head.

A celebration of life will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Oct. 16, at Ford and Sons Mount Auburn Funeral Home in Cape Girardeau.

A meal will follow at the VFW Hall in Chaffee Missouri.

Memorial contributions may be given to American Farriers Association, 2201 Regency Road, Ste. 704, Lexington, KY 40503.

Online condolences may be made at fordandsonsfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT **16**. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall

PL

“ So very sorry Mary, Warren & Alberta, Sherri and Shelly for your loss of Thomas Eugene. I still remember meeting our little cousin at a LaCroix family reunion in about 1983-84. He and our son were two years apart but hit it off. We loved following his adventures as a Mountain Man in Montana through Facebook. He was taken much too young. But I guess the Lord needed a Mountain Man Angel. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.



Pat LaCroix - October 15, 2023 at 10:13 PM

CB

“ I knew " Gene" in Montana. He shod my horses for many years...I worked with him at Montana State Prison...he was a great corrections officer... He should have been born 200 yrs ago...he loved the outdoors, hunting, horses, mules...etc. he had many friends in Montana. I was at Mary and his wedding . They were literally meant for each other. Amazing love.. I had told him around May of this year I was going to come up and see them . They are only 170 miles from me in Arkansas. But I didn't make it this summer...big regret...I like to believe God called him home and planning on him being one to return on horses with Jesus to take care of business. I miss u Gene...but I kno where u are and Jesus needed u.. it was great knowing you..love ya.

Christi Bragg - October 13, 2023 at 09:35 PM

PH

“ Gene I speak of you often my friend. I'm so sorry life has taken you way to soon. I'm sure you and Jerry are racing down the side of that mountain howling the whole way. See you in the flip love you forever.

Pere Holloway - October 13, 2023 at 09:03 PM

JS

“ Gene, you were an awesome man! We need more men like you. I'm proud to be your cousin. Fly high my friend until we meet again.

John Strange - October 13, 2023 at 06:35 PM

BL

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Your family is in my thoughts and praryers.



Becky Lively - October 13, 2023 at 05:31 PM