



## Thomas Bestwick,

June 26, 1956 - July 17, 2012

Thomas J. 'Clank' Bestwick, Sr., 56 of Newark Delaware, passed away on July 17, 2012 the victim of a tragic accident between a motor vehicle and his motorcycle. Tom was a lifelong resident of Salem County, N.J. before moving to Delaware 1 ½ years ago.

Loving Husband Of Susan 'Sunny' Rogers Bestwick , they had 8 children between them: Daughter Karebeth and husband Rob Donaghy of Glenolden, Pa., daughter Stephanie and husband Joe Lombelino of Barnegat, N.J., son Gordon and wife Cortnee Lee of Easton MD., son Thomas Bestwick Jr. of Marcus Hook, Pa., son Paul Bestwick of Pennsville, N.J., daughter Angela Bestwick of Salem , N.J. daughter Megan Chiampas of Pennsville, N.J. and daughter Kaitlyn Davis of Carney's point, N.J. he also had 13 Grandchildren whom he loved and worshipped. Tom was predeceased by his Parents Alfred L. Bestwick and Rose Buoncuore Bestwick of Pennsville, N.J. Tom is also survived by His Brother Alfred Bestwick and Wife Debbie of Dover, Del., Brother Danny Bestwick and Wife Susan of Pilesgrove, N.J., Sister Sandy and Husband Joe Puglisi of Oldham's Township, N.J. and sister Susan and husband Steve Gorman of Pennsville, N.J. He is also survived by several nieces & nephews, aunts and uncles. Tom graduated from Pennsville Memorial High School class of 1974. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corp. where he served from 1974 until 1980 with Honorable Discharge. Tom was currently employed as Facilities Manager of the Diocese of Camden. St. Gabriel the Archangel Church in Carney's Point. Prior employment was with

the Pennsville School District as a Custodian and Boiler Operator. Tom was currently a member of the USMVMC (United States Military Vets MC) as FTO (Field Training Officer). He leaves behind a much loved and respected extended family and very cohesive brother-hood. Tom also loved to farm of which he share cropped. He grew corn, watermelon, and hay for his family, to sell and to feed his many and much loved cows, pigs and horses. Tom was an avid hunter, boater, fisherman, pool player, and motorcyclist and loved to cook. Tom belonged to various organizations specifically The American Legion Post #297 of Pennsville NJ where he rose through the ranks to become Commander on both the local and State Levels. Tom was also involved with Boys State and for 10 years he cooked and delivered Turkey dinners for the homebound via the Visiting Nurse Association of Salem County before transferring to Smyrna Delaware, Post# 14 several years ago. He was also a member of the 40 and 8 an elite part of the American Legion open by invitation only. He was a member of The VFW Post # 8840 Penns Grove N.J., Tom was a member of the Pennsville Moose Lodge #2376 where he was key in setting up and the running of the Turkey Shoots, Toys for Tots , and the Tommie Moose Program to name a few . Tom transferred out to The Middletown Moose Lodge #1295 Middletown, Delaware about a year ago. He was a member of the Marine Corp. League Salem Detachment. Tom was involved with the Boys Scouts for over 15 years both with his boys and beyond. At the time of his death he was in the process of setting up an overnight Boy Scout camp out to teach an NRA safety Gun safety course, for a turkey shoot, for the boys to take part in. Tom was a qualified NRA Instructor. He was involved with Flag Decommissioning Ceremonies, did many color guard duties, helped raise money for Autism,' and 'Semper Fido"( a program that adopts and trains dogs to help returning vets cope with PTSD and other various physical and mental problems, (located in Cherry Hill). Tom rode as escort for several homecoming vets. He also helped his mom with Meals on wheels and was a proactive blood donor. Tom gave unselfishly of his life to help many, even at the end. With help from the 'Gift of Life "program he

was also able to fulfill his wish to be an organ donor and was able to donate his 2 kidneys,( of which 2 recipients received that night successfully ), also his liver, and various soft tissue and bone, so many others may live. His son also received one of his corneas in a very successful transplant. There was never a time that he wouldn't help anyone, even at the end. Tom was best known for his infectious sincere engaging full smile. While being uplifting to others to receive that smile back, always ready to give a hug. A Military Memorial Service will be held on Saturday August 4, 2012 at 2pm, at the Pennsville Moose Lodge #2376 on 174 South Hook Road Pennsville N.J. All are invited to the Service, his last ride and a celebration of his life.

# Tribute Wall

JG

“ Tom was one of our best friends ever. We will miss him so much. He was a wonderful man and will be remembered as a hero in our hearts and souls. My thoughts and prayers goes out to Susan and her family. We will always be here for them whenever we are needed. I will never forget Tom's sense of humor and his smile. Rest in Peace Tom. We love you!!! Till we meet again.

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**Jody and Ron Gorneau** - July 23, 2012 at 09:38 AM