

Roy Charles Thompson

August 8, 1943

April 11, 2022 (79)

Gold Canyon, AZ



A SON'S TAKE: **Roy Charles Thompson**, A.K.A. “Tommy”, “Papa Roy,” “Jose,” and other art-full nicknames, met his maker on April 11, 2022. Out in the olde West they call it a “dirt nap.” This ole Miner at heart would appreciate the sentiment and was ready for his new journey to begin. Roy was always up for an adventure and the images of his life captured in his smile, shows the gratitude he felt for living his life the way he wanted and with whom he wanted.

Roy was the son of a Navy Diver and Lineman Roy “Dick” Thompson and loving Mother Dorothy, “the enforcer,” who taught him (and brother to Margaret (Peg) Bartz and Kathy (Kas) Appino) how to fish. He grew up on the west side of Rockford, IL and spent a couple college years at the University of Wisconsin in Whitewater.

After a few rebellious years, he settled down in the early days of computer programming where he found his groove and excelled professionally. To say that Roy was loved and respected as a coworker and manager would be a huge understatement.

As things sometimes happen, Roy married and divorced but became the extraordinary father to two sons, Scott and Andrew. As time passed and his career advanced, he met and married his soulmate and best friend Deb (Strominger) Thompson. Roy’s family (including Spencer, the dog) spent many years living on the Rock River enjoying fishing, water skiing, raft races, and building retaining walls (child labor laws should have kicked in here). Shortly after retiring from Atwood, Roy and Deb made their dream of moving to Arizona a reality. In 2002, with the help of Scott and wife, Tracie “Tracie Girl” as Papa called her, they packed up their

stuff into a Pensky moving truck (twice...long story), hooked the boat onto the Jeep, and made the 1800-mile trek to Gold Canyon, Arizona.

Arizona is where Roy was meant to be. His love for tennis, golf, hiking, desert 4-wheeling, searching for old mines, olde West history, and the cowboy lifestyle all showed up in his new hobby of digital art photography. He even got into selling his art at some local flea markets. Tommy's favorite subject was the Superstition Mountains. These majestic mountains that rose from the desert behind their house had all the mystery and grandeur required to get Roy's imagination and creativity flowing. The Thompsons purchased an RV and traveled all over America. Tagging along on these camping adventures was their best furry pup, "Marshall." Roy's other passion of sipping cold Miller Lites and toking on swisher sweets made those mountain camping sunsets all the more enjoyable. These trips made for some of Roy's favorite memories.

Now, Roy would have been a real Cowboy instead of a keyboard Cowboy if he had his druthers. What he lacked in real cowboy experience, he made up for in for real Cowboy toughness. Roy was a cat of 9 lives. Life through some major challenges his way including Acute Myeloid Leukemia which he beat and other various illnesses that eventually piled on one after the other. Through it all, he remained positive, strong, and respectful to his nurses and doctors. Roy was lucky enough to have the world's best caregiver who was also his wife and best friend. Any outside observer could see the love between these two, and it was evident that this was their battle together. Grateful for life, grateful for love, grateful for wonderful friends, and grateful for God were their core values.

Roy had requested that instead of flowers, if you so choose, you make a donation to either of his favorite charities:

Sunshine Acres Children's Home, www.sunshineacres.org
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, www.stjude.org

A Memorial Service will take place on Saturday, April 16th at 1:00 PM at Mariposa Gardens, 400 South Power Road, Mesa, AZ 85206, www.mariposagardens.com

References:

[Roy Thompson Obituary - Mesa, AZ \(dignitymemorial.com\)](http://dignitymemorial.com)

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