



Thomas George Gould

November 27, 1951 - August 21, 2025

Thomas (Tom) George Gould, beloved husband, stepfather, and grandfather, passed away peacefully on August 21st, 2025 in Willis, Texas. Born in November 27th, 1951 in Utica New York but spent most of his life in Visalia, California where he graduated from Redwood High School in 1970. He then completed his Bachelor's degree from Sacramento State University. Tom lived a life filled with laughter, love, and dedication to both family and his craft.

Tom built a distinguished career in the restaurant industry, where his passion for food and hospitality shone through his work as a chef, manager, restaurant owner, and culinary business teacher. He worked at and managed the famous Wagon Wheel Steakhouse in downtown Visalia for over 30 years. His expertise and leadership touched many lives throughout his professional journey, as he shared his knowledge and love of the culinary arts with countless others.

Those who knew Tom will remember his boisterous laugh that could fill a room and his wonderfully sarcastic sense of humor that he delighted in sharing with everyone around him. He had a gift for bringing joy and laughter to any gathering, making even ordinary moments memorable with his wit and warmth.

Tom found his greatest happiness in life's simple pleasures. He was an avid

gardener who took pride in nurturing his plants and watching them flourish. His beloved dogs, Oliver and Feather, were constant companions who brought him endless joy. Above all, Tom treasured the time spent with his six grandchildren, creating cherished memories and sharing his infectious laughter with the next generation.

Tom is survived by his devoted wife of 33 years, Mary Gould; his three stepchildren; six grandchildren who will forever carry his memory in their hearts; and his faithful canine companions, Oliver and Feather.

His legacy lives on through the love he shared, the laughter he brought to others, and the countless lives he touched throughout his remarkable journey. Tom will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.