



## Thomas Knipstein

April 5, 1953 - March 13, 2026

Thomas Edward Knipstein entered this world on April 5, 1953 in Freeport, Texas and passed away on March 13, 2026 in Plano with his family by his side.

As soon as he was born, Thomas stole the hearts of his loving parents, Edward Louis and Robbie Marion and his brother Robert Charles (Joe) and sister Mary. Thomas completed the family perfectly. Growing up in a small town was idyllic with playing baseball in the front yard, riding bikes until Mom called us home or it got dark, attending the First Baptist Church frequently and being educated by excellent teachers.

After high school Thomas morphed into "Tom" as he traveled to Dallas to begin his life as an adult. His first job there was with Blue Cross Blue Shield. During his time with BCBS he met other young men that remained his friends throughout life and each made his life richer. He also met and fell in love with an attractive young woman named Rita Woolridge who was to become his wife. An added bonus was Rita's young daughter, Lisa, who Tom welcomed with open arms. Tom and Rita married on February 9, 1979 and, about this time, the trio moved to Royse City where Rita had inherited land. It was on this land that they built a home and their lives. They remained married until Rita's death in 2017.

Tom was hired by the Royse City School System where he worked until his retirement. There were very few things he couldn't fix, mend, repair or make better. He was an asset to them and he enjoyed his time working there.

After retirement he spent his time "tinkering" with a variety of interests. He made furniture, did welding, completed electrical jobs for friends, collected arrowheads at the deer lease, studied World War II, hunted deer, enjoyed cooking and was the best friend a person could want. If you needed help, Tom was your man.

Thomas loved and was loved. He will be missed.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents and his wife. He is survived by Joe (wife Nhung), Mary (husband Walt), Lisa (husband Blake) and sister in law Marty (husband Gary), as well as other extended family members and many friends.

Funeral service will be at 11:00am, Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at Max Slayton Funeral Chapel with interment to follow at Chisholm Cemetery where he will be laid to rest next to his beloved wife, Rita.

His family will receive friends beginning at 10:00am to service time.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 17. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Max Slayton Funeral Chapel  
642 N. Rockwall Ave.  
Terrell, TX 75160

## Funeral Service

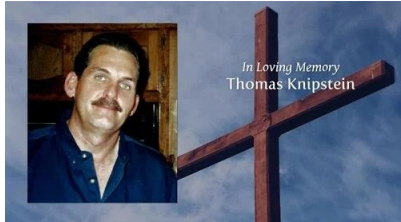
MAR 17. 11:00 AM (CT)

Max Slayton Funerals and Cremations  
642 N Rockwall Avenue  
Terrell, TX 75160  
(972) 524-0881  
<https://www.maxslaytonfunerals.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Max Slayton Funerals and Cremations created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas Knipstein*

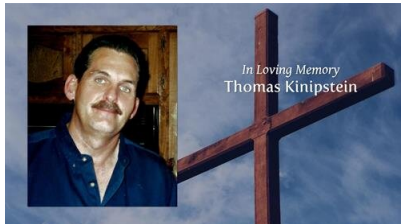


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**Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations** - April 01 at 03:45 PM



“ *Max Slayton Funerals and Cremations created a Webcast in memory of Thomas Knipstein*



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**Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations** - March 17 at 09:30 AM



“ I always loved seeing Tom on campus when I went to Royse City Middle and high School! He was always kind, said hello and I knew the school would be better having him serviced it! Later in life, I realized some of my friends were friends with him. I heard lots of stories of the wonderful, smart, talented man he was. I fortunately got to see him several months ago and he was perfectly in his realm, right in the middle of friends trying to figure something out. I had hoped to get to see him more, and I can't believe he's really gone! I'm glad he gets to be with his beautiful wife and parents! Fly high forever, Tom! Your presence will be missed but your purpose is fulfilled! ❤️

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**Kiesha Ward** - March 16 at 03:21 PM

BF

“ Tom was valuable and loyal employee of the Royse City ISD. He worked hard and took pride in his work. He and I had many enjoyable conversations. He was always pleasant and considerate.

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**Bill Fort** - March 15 at 09:38 PM

AN

“ Tom and Rita were both very good friends of mine. When Rita passed away, I continued visiting Tom, though not nearly enough. I always enjoyed listening to his stories about his younger years and how he lived life to the fullest.

Tom had so many talents and abilities. He could create the nicest things out of wood. I will always cherish the cutting board he made for me, along with the beautiful jewelry box.

Another common interest we shared was hunting arrowheads. Tom had even developed the ability to make arrowheads himself.

Tom also had certain sayings that will stick with me forever...

“Baaaaabbbby,”

“Chiiilli,”

and “Let it rip, tater chip.”

He loved his dogs so very much.

I will miss him deeply.

R.I.P. and fly high, my dear friend. 🕊️

You will always be remembered. 🌿



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**Angi Naquin** - March 15 at 04:22 PM

JS

“ I worked with his wife Rita. Sending thoughts and prayers to the family.



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**Janice KAY Squires** - March 15 at 11:06 AM

BH

*I also worked with Rita. May God give the family strength during this bereavement time.*

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**Belinda Hall** - March 16 at 06:37 PM