



## Thomas Elza Brown

April 28, 1952 - May 8, 2026

Thomas Elza Brown, aged 74, passed this life May 8, 2026 at his home in Bloomington, Indiana.

Thom was born April 28, 1952 in Gibson County, son of the late Cecil Laverne and Margaret Louise (Waters) Brown.

Thom loved the outdoors, his music, and his family. He was a wonderful husband, father, brother, grandfather and friend.

Playing in several bands in the Evansville area throughout the 70's, 80's, and 90's, Thom was known by his soaring tenor voice, creative guitar style, and songwriting. He loved Camp Ondessonk in Ozark, Illinois and inspired several generations of musicians as a mainstay of campfire singalongs and gatherings. Thom was a big supporter of local music and regularly attended his son, Devin's, performances in and around Bloomington.

Thom was most at home in the woods and shared his love of nature with many. He was an excellent land steward and took great pride caring for his property. Thom traveled extensively and had a deep connection to the American Southwest, reflected in his American Indian jewelry and art.

Thom, along with his wife, son, daughter in-law, and grandkids grew produce

in Vienna, IL on their property, Roundabout Farm, for several years and was heavily involved with the Southern Illinois Farming Network. He truly loved teaching his grandkids how to work the land.

Thom worked his entire career in the lumber industry and was a foremost expert in drying lumber. He loved wood and was an honorary member of the "Wood Heads". He retired in 2018 from SII Dry Kilns, where he traveled throughout the country as a salesman, which suited his social personality well.

If you knew Thom, you know he was a RASCAL. He had a wily sense of humor and loved to point out the "elephant in the room". His devious smile was infectious and his off-the-cuff joking style was legendary. Thom was a natural performer in all respects and never hesitated to put his foot in his mouth for a good laugh.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Theresa (Terri) Anne (Will) Brown; sons: Justin Will Brown and Jordan Travis Brown; siblings: Jane Elaine Wira, Walter Robert Brown, Cecilia Anne Hill, and Larry Gene Brown. He carried a heavy burden.

Thom is survived by his son, Devin Thomas Brown (Cara Bergschneider) of Bloomington; grandchildren: Shawnee Gabriel Brown of Bloomington and Trillium Thelma Brown of Chicago; siblings Donald (Cheryl) Brown of Princeton, Lorilee Wyatt of Yankeetown, and Daniel Brown of Macon, IL. He will be missed.

"If you want to fly, then fly high. If you want to fly, better touch the sky." - Thom Brown

The family will bury his ashes in a small ceremony, alongside Terri, Justin, and Jordan.

A Celebration of Life Memorial for Thom will be held on Saturday, June 13th, 12:00PM Noon to 4:00 pm at Scales Lake Pavilion, 800 W Tennyson Rd, Boonville, IN 47601. Please send photos and memories of Thom to his son, Devin, at [brotherdevin@gmail.com](mailto:brotherdevin@gmail.com). <https://www.warrickcountyparks.com/event-pavilion>

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory 4155 South Old State Road 37 has been entrusted with the arrangements and online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at [www.allencares.com](http://www.allencares.com)

In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations to the Hoosier Original Music Association ([www.hoosieroriginalmusic.com](http://www.hoosieroriginalmusic.com)).

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Gathering

JUN 13. 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Scales Lake Pavillion  
800 West Tennyson Road  
Boonville, IN 47601

# Tribute Wall



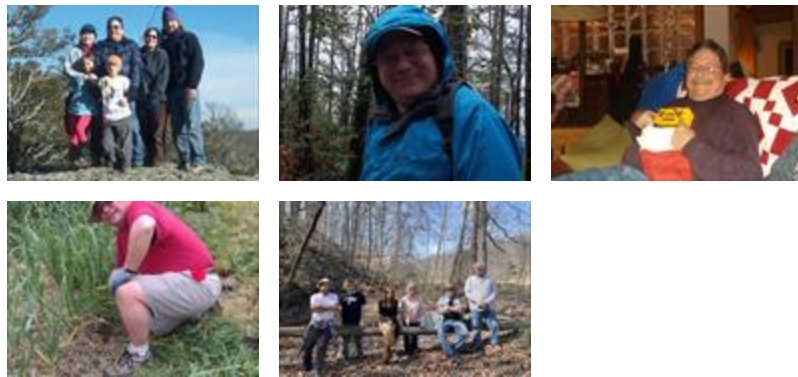
“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Elle Rush - May 25 at 10:26 PM



“ 15 files added to the album Thom with Family



Devin Brown - May 20 at 09:37 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Thomas Elza Brown.



May 18 at 03:01 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Thomas Elza Brown.

May 18 at 03:01 PM



“ My first memory of Thom was listening to him play his first guitar in his yard at the Cecil Brown home in Owensville I think he was about 6 or so and I was 4. He played Tie me kangaroo Down Sport . We had a long life of playing music together. He left us a lot of good songs , and better for knowing him. He left the world a better place I will always keep him and all his family in my heart

Susan Ping Raney - May 17 at 11:41 PM



“ In high school, Tommy and I dated for a while. We both loved music so much, and of course, my mother just detested his long hair. As we graduated and moved away, we grew apart, and yet we touched base now and then. He married his wonderful wife, Teresa, and had children. One day, when he was laughing about how much my mom was afraid he would change her daughter way back in high school, I told him how very proud she would have been of him. That was the truth. He turned out to have a good life and raise a good family. And while he might have pretended to be that rebel now and then, he was as good and kind as anyone can be all of his life.

Kathy Allen - May 16 at 08:13 AM



“ Now that you can fly...touch the sky...❤️

ABP - May 15 at 07:27 PM

ML

“ Thom was a caring, kind and genuinely nice guy. He gave me a bunch of Walnut and Cherry boards that were left over from a plant in Evansville where they made laminate. They were a quarter to 3/8 in thick and they have the full structure of the tree. They are gorgeous boards and I have used them in several ways in my house. On his advice I only put Danish oil on the boards and don't use polyurethane, they take on a warm color and I love the look. He was generous in that way. Over the last year I picked up some Cypress and poplar and hickory that were rough cut. He guided me on how to get them dry and usable in my garage no more and some plastic and a dehumidifier. You got the boards down to 7 to 8% dry, which is just where you want to be. It is hard to believe that we celebrated his 70th birthday 4 years ago at Devin and Cara's. It was a great party and well worth the trip. I can remember hikes on their property near Tunnel Hill and check out the garlic they were growing on the roundabout farm. From that teaching moment, I had my dad start growing garlic up in Springfield. And we're still growing it today. Singing songs around the campfire wine in a special wine-shaped Christmas bag. Not sure where it is now but it gets passed around. I confess to keeping it for a few years without thinking. But that's okay that's the way things go. I truly hope he is at peace. And I pray that his family finds peace as well. Love you Thom

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**Matthew Lechner** - May 15 at 07:18 PM