



## John Thomas (Tom) Gogoll

August 19, 2024

John Thomas (Tom) Gogoll, 70, of Dale City, Virginia, beloved father, brother, “Poppa”, uncle, cousin, and friend, passed away suddenly on August 19, 2024.

John was born in Baltimore, Maryland in October of 1953. He graduated from Dulaney High School, class of 1971, and remained close with many of his former classmates to this day. He was a proud and active Boy Scout throughout grade school, before choosing to enlist in the U.S. Army to protect our country as we were embroiled in the Vietnam War. He served for ten years, stationed in places such as Camp Samae San (Sattahip), Thailand, with the United States Army Support, Thailand (USARSUPTHAI), and later as an Air Traffic Controller at Davison Army Airfield, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, before receiving an honorable discharge to raise a family in 1981. His long and storied career included stints at the Defense Mapping Agency, Naval Reactors, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), and Northern Virginia Gun Works, before retiring to fully enjoy life in 2017.

John was a proud Army Veteran who loved his country and loved his family with equal dedication. There was no aspect of history (American, military or guns and gunsmithing) that he did not know, and he loved to educate and entertain with detailed stories. His face would simply light up when he talked about his craft and was a wise and patient instructor to all ages. He was proud

to coach the younger generation in proper safety and respect for firearms.

He was an avid Civil War historian and loved going to the annual reunion of the Archer's Brigade reenactors in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. A meticulous and technically gifted man, he fixed and built things - large and small - with his own two hands, including the various building repairs as the Facilities Manager at Naval Reactors to the multiple sheds built by hand at his home. One of his favorite phrases that carried him through life was "a place for everything, and everything in its place."

John was preceded in death by parents Elizabeth "Libby" Gogoll Garland and Thornton H. Gogoll Jr., as well as daughters Patricia Gogoll and Teresa McArdle.

John leaves behind his daughter, D'Arcey (Justin) Johnson, grandson Matthew Johnson, longtime life partner Janet Peterson, brother Ted (Donna) Gogoll, nephews Trevor (Jackie) Gogoll, Tyler (Erica) Gogoll, Troy (Caitlin) Gogoll, niece Elyse (Dennis) Gogoll and their families, plus many beloved cousins and extended family.

A celebration of life will be held on Monday, November 11 from 11am-1pm at Miller Funeral Home in Woodbridge, Virginia. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in his memory to the National Museum of the United States Army, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, or the American Battlefield Trust (Gettysburg Battlefields).

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

NOV 11. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Miller Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc.  
3200 Golansky Blvd.  
Woodbridge, VA 22192  
703-878-CARE (2273)  
<https://millerfuneralhome.net/>

# Tribute Wall



“ I taught John (Tom) in the Industrial Arts Department of Dulaney High School in the area of drafting and he and I shared an interest in Civil War firearms. I had not talked to Tom for over 50 years until we became Facebook friends and this past May he was in Charlotte, N.C. and we were able to spend about three hours together and have lunch in Rock Hill where we also met Janet. It was a sudden shock to learn of Tom's passing and it was very kind of Janet to let me know of his passing. I had and have very fond memories or out time at Dulaney and the many posts that we shared on the social media sight. RIP my friend, I will keep you in my prayers.

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**Fred Eierman** - September 04, 2024 at 03:21 PM

RZ

John & I met in 1988 at the Washington DC Naval Observatory Defense Mapping Agency Headquarters. He was the DMA distribution & mail office chief and saw my National Rifle Association & Safari Club International magazine pubs. This led to 30+ years of common interest in firearms plus construction projects. John helped me on three of my house addition projects (bathroom, roof framing & shingles). I helped John on two of his bathroom projects and shed projects (John's sheds are unique because they also were construction shops!) John knows way more than I about all firearm aspects so I learned a lot from him. I saw John for lunch late last Spring and he shared his vast collection of firearms in an impressive catalog. There is so much more about our shared Army experiences in Southeast Asia. So long John..I will dearly miss you.

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**ROBERT ZEBELL** - November 10, 2024 at 07:37 PM

NM

One of the good guys gone way too soon. John and I were friends at Dulaney and kept in touch. He sent me a picture of himself enjoying one of his bucket lists...a ride on a World War 2 Bomber....I'll miss his stories.

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**Norm Meyers** - December 22, 2024 at 02:25 PM