Memories of Tom on Corky’s and Lori Jo’s Facebook this week:

To Tom’s family: So many people were touched by Tom and his legacy and his passing, I wanted to share with you the comments Corky and I received on our Facebook pages this week. Tom was a fine man and a brave soul. Many of those who wrote knew him in high school or younger, as I did, and consistently we all remember a kind boy who was always friendly, funny, warm, and made us feel better about ourselves. This is a rare and special gift, and I can’t tell you how much it meant to me to know him and to experience his kindness when I was young and not everyone was so unselfishly nice. I have been honored to get to meet you, Tom’s family, and I have been impressed with how Curtis and Joyce raised such fine sons. With love, Lori Jo Oswald

Curt Faulk Lori, please pass on to our old friends how much I wish I could be there. Please especially say hello to Mark for me. He and Tom were good friends and I miss them both.

Debbie Hulen I read this in the paper this morning - very sad. I didn't know Tom in our "adult" lives, but he was always very nice in our youth and I remember how much he loved to ski. I also remember seeing him at Gary King's waxing skis. He is no longer suffering. RIP Tom.

Corky Brown We stayed friends from our Wendler days on. Even with his pain and suffering, he always kept me laughing. I would visit whenever I was in Anchorage and I was always greeted with “Hey Cork, how’s your wife and MY kids?” LOL Typical Tom!!!

Eric Storms Tom and I were friends since grade school, Cub Scouts, Band class, Track. Cross-Country Ski Team. Downhill skiing. Hookie-bobbin’... too many stories. RIP Tom.

Janie Evanson Henderson One memory that pops out of Tom is when we were teaching skiing together for Gary King's Ski School @ Arctic...it was Christmas or Easter Ski Week & he was the •lucky• one to have three brand new skiers in his group of 12 who were middle-ag 34 minutes ago

Molly Friess What happened?

Cyndi Giles Thanks for posting Corky. Very sad. Nice guy.

Corky Brown Great thoughts Eric and Janie. Happy to do it Cyndi. He deserves all of the kind words and honor that we can bestow over FB.
Mike Minnery Thanks for posting Corky.... I have fond memories of Tom, skiing at Arctic Valley. What a nice guy! Rest in Peace Tom.....

Elsa Robinson My parents, who live in Anchorage, just called me to share the news of Tom's passing. I have such fond memories of Tom during our high school years and to this day feel truly honored to have known him.

Lauri Moser Ek thanks for posting Corky, I had no idea even though I live here. I concur with all that we were all honored to know him.

Leah Muse Dowling I haven't seen Tom in forever. But when I remember him, I remember him smiling, and that makes me smile. Thanks Tom, you will be missed. RIP.

Sonja Koenig Guillory OH I didn't know about this Corky... What happened? Private message Please

Sonja Koenig Guillory TY Corky- So many diseases we need to conquer and friends we lose too early in life. TY for the answer...I hope he (Tom) is having fun blowing out candles with Jesus :) Prayers to the family... He was such a great person! Sad he departed this earth so soon :( 

Mark Dorsey Corky, I am deeply saddened to hear about Tom. I knew he'd been suffering from MS. He was one of the Examiners that helped me in PSIA, and a good friend back in the day.

Tamra Corthell Nygaard Do they have moguls in heaven? If not, they should certainly put some in. I met Tom in 1st grade--guess that's a long time ago now. He played a mean drum kit. I was hoping we weren't so old that we would be reading obits about "kids" our age. This stinks.

Daniel Swoboda My heart is simply broken. Nothing more to say.

Mac Biggers Sorry to hear of your loss best wishes

Corky Brown Sonja and Molly, I will just put it here. Tom had been suffering with MS for about 20 years and it finally took him. He passed away on Thursday, two days shy of his 50th birthday. (today) Chris Davis went much quicker back in 1992 with MS, but Tom fought it for a long time. I saw him last September when I was back home visiting.
Patti Claassen  Very sad news indeed!

Glenn D'Spain  Skiing, Drums, Bowling....so many good memories. Thank you Tom

Donna Peterson
Tom McVee  O My so sad. That's how I knew him. Dang so young too. Thanks for responding g...
3 hours ago

Corky Brown
is saddened by the passing of a long time friend and fellow East High Thunderbird, Tom McVee. I heard that he passed away yesterday. He had a long battle with MS. I have a lot of good memories of Tom. Rest in Peace buddy.

Manuela Miller  Oh my gosh! So very sorry to hear that. RIP Tom.

Tamra Corthell Nygaard  That stinks. RIP.

Kathy Moore  So sorry to hear about Tom! My thoughts go out to his family...

Krista Stephens  Andacht so sad

Lori-Jo Oswald  Dear good Tom.

John Glenzer  No way.... Although I was never that close to Tom, I do remember that he was one of those "great guys" I always admired. RIP

Michelle Deus  God bless Tom....
Kelly Brian Just read this, am dropping all thoughts to raise a shot of Jameson's (close as I get to Scotch, and am presently sitting in an Irish Pub)

Roberta Polsky Hartley MS is a vicious disease. I have several friends with it, including one my age who has just been diagnosed. Tom's family are in my heart and in my prayers.

Lori-Jo Oswald I have the family's address if anyone wants to send a card or letter. It is 1601 Baylor Way, Anchorage, AK 99508

Kelly Brian I hope his Father is okay, he has been taking care of Tom for some time now, time for the class of 79 to send prayers to Tom and his family.....

Lori-Jo Oswald Yes. I saw his dad - Curtis - this morning. Such a wonderful kind man. And he lost both his son and his wife in a short time. Please send him cards if you can. Maybe memories of tom.

Janie Evanson Henderson Such sad news. Tom was a really great guy. May he rest in peace. May God bless his family. Especially during this time.

Ray Allor I'm very saddened to hear this. I knew Tom well in school. He was only a sophomore when I was a senior, and he always made me laugh!

Shelley Polsky Plummer Oh Corky, that is such sad news. Tom was such a good guy all growing up. I am sad to hear this.

Beth Henderson Childers I'm stunned. Like everyone, I remember Tom as such a good guy. And he always had a smile on his face. How very sad.

Mary Lammers Corky, thank you so much for posting this. So sad to hear. Prayers going out to all who new and loved Tom. I for one don't hear a drum solo without thinking of him. Rest in Peace dear friend.

Lori King Wow - thanks for letting us know, Corky. I'm glad he isn't suffering anymore... but it is sad to have lost him.

Curt Faulk Corky, Mark and Tom were very good friends of mine. This is truly sad news. Tom was a really, really good guy. I knew him at East and Gary King's and also when I was a ski rep up there. I, too, am glad his pain has ended and he is now in a better place.
Thomas J Beaman Jr My prayers are with him and his family.

Carol A Crosby-East Oh my goodness! Such sad news. Our prayers will be for him and his family.

Tammy Miller RIP Tom.

Jane Casleton Williams So sad....his pain is now over tho!

Laura Turnbow Murray May Tom rest in peace and prayers are with his family!!

Deb Lincoln-Parker Oh how sad peace to you Tom Thank you Corky for sharing I know all of us remember Tom well and hold memories close....

Corky Brown For sure. Tom was awesome. I loved skiing with him. AIR LORD!!!!! That was what he yelled when going off the cornice at Arctic Valley.

Eric Storms Very sad new indeed. We were classmates since Rogers Park. I have been looking for Tom since I got a computer. We had a lot of fun together. R.I.P. Tom.

Phyllis Kruger I was in band at East with Tom. Very sunny guy, happy all of the time. Dang it. May the lord bless him and keep him in our thoughts forever and ever.

Eric Storms Oh yeah- Tom SHREDDED the moguls. He was an incredible skier. I was also in band with Tom from grade school.

Richard Stephen Hamel very sorry to hear this sad news....far too young.

Daniel Swoboda Oh God No!

Cheryl Cook VanDaalen oh Corky how heartbreaking I can't believe it is really true. I just can't believe it, doesn't seem possible or real. I remember when he was recvng. treatment for his MS out of state we exchanged letters and cards and he sent me some beautiful cards with drawings he had made of different Alaskan animals. Lori Jo thanks for the family's address, I will be sure to write. Rest in peace Tom, and we know you will be playing Drums up in heaven.
Mohammed Hasaballa RIP so sorry corky.

Michael Dobey damn, that sucks. I lost several cousins in the last few years. It all makes you realize that you can't take any day for granted anymore. I remember him as the nicest guy who didn't deserve ms.

Shelley Polsky Plummer Lori, that's a great idea. They should know how he touched our lives. Like Eric, we went to grade school on up with Tom and he was just one of the nicest people ever. I was thinking maybe Joyce Chase might have pictures since they were prom king and queen together.

Judy Goldsworthy A life ending all too soon. What a skier he was. Those of you in Alaska should ski a run in his honor.

Corky Brown
Here is his memorial service information. Tom's brother Mark just called me and asked me to spread the word. Please pass this on to your friends who knew Tom as well.
Wednesday, Feb 16th at 4:30 pm at Evergreen Memorial Chapel located at... 737 E Street, Anchorage AK 99501

Corky Brown I just posted it as my status. Reply here if you want Mark McVee's phone number and I will send it in a private message to you on FB.

Corky Brown I found out from Mark that today, Feb 12th would have been Tom's 50th birthday. He missed it by two days.

Tina Banister Thomas He will be missed dearly!! He was a great guy, and I have great memories of him.

Cheryl Cook VanDaalen Lori I think that is a wonderful idea!! Hey Corky thanks for the memorial information........that is where my Mother's service was and I can't say enough good things about the family that owns Evergreen.......they are so kind and supportive and really help a family in so many ways.

Linda Young Thomas Sending loving thoughts and energy ...

Michael Dobey I'll ski one for him here in Colorado.
Drum away, Tom Tom. A long time neighbor from the Elementary years, cub scouts, school. Well remembered.

~

Kevin Brownsberger,
Anchorage, Alaska

February 15, 2011
I am so saddened to hear of Tom's passing. I met Tom during high school in Anchorage. His warm, inviting smile and love for his drum playing brought such joy to so many who were blessed to call him 'friend', including me. I look back fondly at my Class of '79 years and Tom was a treasured part of that time. May all who were touched by his life, even in some small way, feel honored to have known him!

~

Elsa Robinson,
Irvine, California

February 15, 2011
We will always remember your smile and sense of humor, Tom. Lots of very fond memories in the "old Gary King's Days!"

~

Adrienne & Tim

February 15, 2011
Mike, Matt, Mark and Mr. McVee: It was truly sad to hear that we have lost Tom. Going back to the Wendler days in band and later working as rep in the ski business, I was always very happy to see Tom whenever I came into the store. Tom was always one of the guys who could be most counted on to brighten up any group. I wish I could be there, and am thinking of you all.

~

Curt Faulk,
Goodyear, Arizona

February 15, 2011
I met Tom when we were fellow students at East High school. He was a very skillful skier, talented drummer (we "jammed" on a couple occasions) and a kind human being. It was when I ran into him at a local restaurant about 10 years ago that I learned he had contracted this horrible and cruel disease. Kindest regards to his family.

~

Lamar Ballard,
Anchorage, Alaska

February 15, 2011
Our thoughts and prayers are with you. I will remember Tom as someone with a bright smile and a superb drummer. When he was in Neb. getting treatment we exchanged cards and letters and he included some beautiful drawings on notecards that he had done of Alaskan wildlife. Know that friends from the Class of '79 will never forget Tom. The Lord be with each of you.

Fondly,
In Christ,
Cheryl (Cook), Jim & Rachel VanDaalen
Louisville, KY

February 15, 2011
I remember what an honest and sincere person Tom was and people gravitated toward him. He always had a smile and kind word. He will be missed. My deepest sympathy.

~

Laura Young-Campbell,
Curtis, Mike, Mark and Matt,

I am so sorry for your loss. Tom and I became fast friends back in 7th grade and continued our friendship since that time. I have so many great memories of him. He was someone who I admired so much. He will be missed by many people. My prayers are with your family.

~

Corky Brown,
Layton, Utah

February 15, 2011

I worked with Tom at Gary Kings and the man was a legend. He had a sweetness about him that endeared him to all. My best thoughts and wishes go out to all of those lucky enough to have shared a moment with him.

~

Cheryl Daily,
Anchorage, Alaska

February 15, 2011

I remember Tom as one of those people who never changed, even in the ever changing high school times. If he met you once he knew you forever, always able to greet you with a smile.

~

Trevor Harrison,
Montrose, Colorado

February 15, 2011

We will miss you, Tom. I loved our visits and how you always made me laugh, even in your illness. To "Prince Tom," from Lori Jo

February 15, 2011

Rest in peace, Tom McVee.

~

Anchorage, Alaska

February 15, 2011

Tom was one of those rare people who made everybody’s life better, my thoughts and prayers are with his family during this time.

~

Kelly Brian,
Surprise, Arizona

February 15, 2011

I am sorry to hear of Tom’s passing. I remember him from high school as a gentle and very upbeat person. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

~

Bill Mechling,
Park City, Utah

February 15, 2011

Tom, you were one of the best people I ever met. Always kind and quick with a joke, to make everyone laugh. I enjoyed working with you. You will be missed. My thoughts and prayers go to your family. May the runs be long and the powder light and deep.

~

Clifton Hall,
Gig Harbor, Washington