

THOMAS M. McGUIRE

“TRUE STORY”

2003

Easy Livin Vans

Dec. 15 2003 Easy Liv'n Vans and what seemed like the entire south side of Chicago, drove in a Caravan that was sure to be remembered. It was a farewell run for The Fallen Easy Liv'n Member, Tom McGuire. This Procession was a “True Story” to be told, from the time we left the funeral home. The Funeral home was not going to allow us to send off Tommy the way he wanted to be. All Tommy asked was that he be taken in a Van. So 8 pallbearers and an escort walked Tommy into a hearse against our will. 19 Vans and 69 cars were in the procession. As we proceeded down the road towards the Church, the lead car was abruptly stopped at a set of railroad crossing gates. The caravan sat there for almost 15 min. blocking one of the worst intersections on the south side of Chicago for a train that never came through. After enough time for all to adjust there attitudes (wink, wink) we decided that there was no Train coming and it was just Tommy making sure that we were all ready for what followed. That's right 88 vehicles crossed the tracks with the gates down and proceeded to take Tommy to the Church.

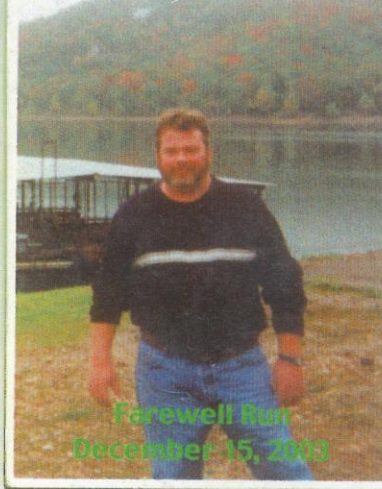
As uplifting as the spiritual side of the day was, the sadness was still in all our hearts. It would take something special to turn this emotional down to a more acceptable level. It came in the form of Vanners, Family and friends following through on a final Promise. As the hearse opened, Sleeper pulled Woody's Van up behind it with the doors already opened. As we headed down the stairs towards the vehicles, We turned towards the back of the Van. There was no stopping us once the cheers started. As they started to close the hearse, we told them we would still need it. An incorrectly relieved driver assumed we meant that Tommy in the back of the Van was only temporary. He realized his mistake when he saw us load all the flowers into the hearse. There was no way we were going to put him back into a hearse. In many peoples eyes it could have been an incredibly sad moment, but as we loaded True Story Tom McGuire into the back of a Van in Front of 100s of Family Friends and Vanners, A cheer came from the crowd. It was an auspicious moment for Vanners

Tommy's courage and dignity through this sorrowful time was an inspiration to all that knew him. The strength of his Family is staggering. The loss we all feel can only fade, but never completely. Tommy would not want us to be sad, it wasn't worth the time. He never complained and he always kept his head up. A true Vanner and an original 2%er. Tommy left a legacy of Vanning behind him. In some of his last few days although in great pain, he would not tell you about the pain he felt or how bad he may have felt, he took the time to it's best and kept us all laughing, smiling, and buzzing. He told Therese a few days before he passed about what he saw when he closed his eyes. Tommy saw what he always saw Vans. Only when he shut his eyes it was not current Vans he saw, it was the future and all the Vans were different and new. I'm sure he's up there right now trying to figure out how to get one and I'm sure it will be slammed in no time.

As long as there is someone out there in a campground or on a lake telling “True Stories” He will not be forgotten. So next time you hear someone say That's a true story, Smile, Take a drag, and know that Tommy's savin' a spot at the great Truckin for ya'.

Chooie
Vanner

Tom "True Story" Mc Guire
1954 - 2003
You Will Be Missed
& That's a TRUE STORY!





THE ROAD of LIFE



"i expect to
pass through this
world but once.
Any good therefore
that i can do
or any kindness
that i can show
any fellow creature
let me do it now...
for i shall not
pass this way again"