



## Thomas Haben

August 28, 1947 - August 28, 2004

"Thomas Haben"

MINNEAPOLIS - Thomas M. Haben, 57, of Minneapolis, formerly of Iron Mountain, died, Saturday, Aug. 28, 2004, at Fairview University Medical Center in Minneapolis.

Tom was born on Feb. 25, 1947, in Hibbing, Minn., son of the late Wendell and Syrie (Juntunen) Haben. He moved to this area with his parents in 1958 and graduated from Iron Mountain High School in 1965. While in school, he was a good athlete and a great dancer.

He became a quadriplegic as a result of an automobile accident in the fall of 1965. He had lived in the Minneapolis area for the past 35 years. Tom worked for Congressman Jim Ramstad of Minneapolis as a spokesman for the disabled.

His greatest achievement was assisting in getting the public transportation system accessible to other disabled persons. He was also a counselor at the Courage Center and encouraged many disabled persons throughout the years.

Tom loved listening to music and watching sports events with his friends. He is survived by two sisters, Jerri Sanders of Iron Mountain and Kathy (Fred) Kurszewski of Menominee Falls, Wis.; five nieces and nephews, Scott Sanders, Tim Larsen, Tami Kopplin, Marcy Kraft and David Haben; two grandnephews, Brian Nord and Cole Kraft and three grand nieces, Grace and Hannah Kopplin and Kaitlin Kraft.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Jim Haben.

Visitation will be held from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. on Wednesday at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain.

A memorial service will follow at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home with Rev. David Anderson officiating.

Burial will be in Cemetery Park in Iron Mountain.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in his memory to Bay Cliff Health Camp.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Thomas Haben online at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com).

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the funeral arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

DF

“ I've thought about Tom several times over the past. I first met Tom when I was in a band called the She 5 and we played at Mr Kents in Florence (Iron Mountain). He would come every time we were there and would stay the entire night listening to our music. I would talk to him on every break and was so saddened by his tragic accident. It wasn't until recently that I met a person from Iron Mt and I asked her if she remembered Mr Kents which brought me back to thinking about Tom. I am saddened when I did a search on him to find his obituary. I know it's been several years since his death, but wanted you to know how often I thought about him and wondered where he was and how he was. You have my sincere sympathy even though it's a little late. I just wanted you to know that I always had a special place in my memory for Tom. I hope this message reaches his family. Thank you. Dar

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**Dar Ryba-Borchardt - Wittenberg, WI - Old friend** - April 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ *Jeri & Family*

*My heart is with you at this sad time. Tom is now at peace.*

*Sandy*

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**Sandra Kaye** - September 01, 2004 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ To all of Tom's family and friends,

*Having known Tom for the last 28 years, I was very sad to hear of his passing. Meeting at the Courage Center, Tom was the 'veteran' that many of his disabled friends turned to for direction and advice on many issues.*

*Working on accessibility programs and things to empower those of us in the disabled community, Tom's compassion was felt in ways so many people will never know. From transportation to employment issues, Tom's voice was heard by policy makers in our city as well as Washington.*

*Over 18 years ago, Tom arranged a 'stag' party before I married my wife Debbie. What memories!  
Thanks Tom... :-)*

*Maybe not understanding the world in the way some of his Christian friends did, I am confident our Lord has brought Tom into his heaven. All without wheelchairs and barriers! I know that we will meet again.*

*May you be at peace Tom...*

*Our Blessings,*

*Rick & Debbie Ryan*

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**Rick Ryan** - September 01, 2004 at 12:00 AM