



Daniel "Danny" Thomas

February 18, 1952 - December 31, 2024

Few people are able to capture and keep a spirit of wonder throughout their life, but Danny Thomas did just that. He was a human spark of light, a joyous soul, and the life of every party. His childlike curiosity and infectious outlook spilled over onto every person he met. When Danny passed on December 31st, 2024, he left behind a lifetime full of unforgettable, happy memories, surreal stories, and Disney magic that his friends and family will forever cherish.

Danny was born on February 18th, 1952, in Los Angeles, California, to Virginia (Martin) and Everett Thomas. From the beginning, Danny was guided by an independent, free-spirited nature that helped him navigate life's challenges. After losing his mother at the age of 10, he grew incredibly close to his older sister, Patricia, who became his steadfast support. This bond led Danny to move to the city of Taft with Patricia in his early teens, where he immersed himself in the world of theater at The Taft Children's Theater, working in both acting and set design. It was during this time that Danny discovered his love for the arts and realized that his creativity would be the driving force behind almost everything he pursued professionally.

As Pat and Danny eventually settled in the Bay Area, Danny's artistic journey continued to flourish. He taught himself to play the drums and performed in productions for the San Jose and Saratoga Civic Light Operas. His passion for creativity led him to beauty school, where he honed his craft and became a highly skilled hairdresser. This allowed him to open a successful salon in

Santa Clara where he was adored by all of his clients. Danny also returned to the San Jose Light Opera as the primary hairstylist for major productions like Hello, Dolly! and Seesaw, with acclaimed performers such as Michelle Lee, Tommy Tune, and Janis Paige.

In 1982, Danny met the love of his life, Betsye Dilleha. Their connection was immediate, and they married in 1984, sharing almost 43 wonderful years together until Danny's passing. At the time of their marriage, Danny was already a proud father to his daughters Shawna and Jordyn, and in December of 1984, he and Betsye welcomed their son, Hunter, completing their family. In 1988, Danny and Betsye moved the family to Betsye's home of Nashville, Tennessee, where Danny fulfilled his lifelong dream of owning land and horses. There, in the peace and beauty of the Tennessee countryside, Danny found fulfillment, continuing to live with the same passion and creativity that had guided him throughout his life. A special part of Danny's heart was unlocked when he became a grandfather. His five grandchildren—Cheyenne, Lily, Virginia, Carter, and Connor—were his pride and joy. In 2014, Danny took an early retirement to care for his granddaughter Virginia, who was born prematurely. At that point he became "Danny The Nanny" extending his services to his youngest grandson, Connor as well. Over the years, he and Betsye also cared for many dogs, cats, and other critters that wandered into their yard and hearts. He was a lover of animals pouring his whole heart into loving each and every one of them.

Danny may be gone from this world, but his smile, his hearty laugh, and his unquenchable spirit—that is how he will be remembered. The boy who never grew up. The Peter Pan of his family. He is survived by his wife, Betsye Thomas (Dilleha); daughter Shawna Thomas; granddaughter Cheyenne Bradley; daughter Jordyn Thomas Harris, her husband Scott, and their children Carter and Virginia; son Hunter Thomas, his wife Renee, and their children Lily and Connor. He is also survived by his beloved sister, Patricia Thomas; niece Sara Thomas; nephew Jason Vitala, as well as many more nieces and nephews, half-brother Kerry Thomas; his four step-siblings Sharon

Siegel (Scheinfeld), Randy Scheinfeld, Mark Scheinfeld & Craig Scheinfeld;
sister-in-law Judy Formosa (Dilleha), and brother-in-law Marty Dilleha. .
Rest easy, Danny. Now you can fly, you can fly, you can fly...