

John Thompson

From Larry Flynn

John Thompson was born Jan. 12th, 1955 and left us on May 6th, 1989. He was taken by a heart attack. About 7 weeks before his death he caught a nasty cold. This grew into pneumonia. John could be very stubborn and wouldn't go to a doctor to find out what was going on. Instead he would run a cold bath and soak until the fever broke. A 105-106 degree fever. Those that knew him got worried and decided to TAKE him to the hospital if he didn't check in voluntarily. I had that task, oh joy. On our way to Harborview John told me he was afraid of going in because no one was coming out. I was silent. He then told me that he had only been in a hospital once before and that was when he was born. I had no words. We had spent all that time in the car talking about everything from Jesus to death and then zip. I had nothing to say. John was checked in on Wednesday and passed away on Saturday. During his memorial we had a "Balloon" ceremony where we all signed messages to him on the balloons and released them.

On the up side...

We met in 1976 or as John called it The Bisex-ennial! John had such a way with words. There were some pretty wild times then. I was living in Capitola CA when I met John, through my roommate. Arthur met John in San Francisco, brought him out of The City and John never moved back.

He was a cook when I first met him. We both were and worked anywhere we could. (can you imagine Larry as a short order cook in truck stop!?)

John moved to Seattle with a lover and I followed them up here in 1979. This was the second house we shared.

I moved out to go to college and then moved back a few years later to the same old place we last lived together in. Sort of odd. That was the 3rd house together.

Moved to the island because John moved out here.

One day he says, "I'm done with the city, I'm off to Vashon," "What's a Vashon?," says I. "Follow me on Sunday and I will show you." That was the summer of '83 and we moved into The Beall House right next to the nursery.

He's also the reason I'm Larry the bus driver.

I got my job with Metro that summer I left town. The commute to work each day made it necessary to leave Vashon for nearly 2 years. Once seniority built up and I pick better work I

moved back to The Rock. 3 months later John informed me that Metro was looking for someone to fill an island assignment. The rest is history.

Best friends are the most amazing things in the world. For a brief season of 13 years John and I partied, shared friends and lovers, the excitement that comes with moving from town to town and growing through the years. And sometimes they have influences on our lives that help to set the course for the others life. John was a touch stone friend. I miss him greatly.

John was a waiter at Sound Food from 1983 until 1989. He was also a singing waiter at the SeaTac Red Lion Inn. How lounge act can you get? We teased him about it but only to a point. He had a lovely voice and could play the piano and clarinet. John brought a joy and warmth to the dining room that all folks like when they go out. And he was a good waiter too. He also cooked there.

Speaking of cooking, his nickname was Mamma John. This came for having lived in a commune in S.F. in the 70's. in a commune all things are shared which means cooking too. The house liked John's food so much they gave him the name Mamma John 'cause it was just like food mamma used to make. Sweet!

Mamma John's "family" was his gay family. When ever we heard John was giving a BBQ or some such thing, the family would gather and feasting would take place. We we're a traditional family by any means other than like minded souls sharing good times and John's good food.

The friend's generosity continues to this day.

The home I live in was his. At time I think he must be laughing his head off at that giving the cottage was practically a dozer down, not worth saving. Well 29 years later I still give a faithful little nod to my pal for leaving me this place.

The only quilt I can find is a photo of it. The Names Project told me they couldn't locate it when I was doing one of the benefits for Bailey~Boushay House. I would really like to have that if there were a way to get it to show at the Vashon Pride Exhibit Steve Silha is doing.

There, a "short" bio on my bud John. :>)