



Thomas A. "Thom" Potts

November 21, 1959 - December 22, 2024

Thomas A. Potts, 65, of Charles Town, WV, passed away Sunday, December 22, 2024.

Mr. Potts was born on November 21, 1959, in Winchester, Virginia, the son of Hubert Thomas Potts and Eleanor Louise Steed Potts.

He is survived by his partner, Richard Seckinger; his brother, Bruce Potts (partner Kyle Hibbitts); his cousin Diane Williams (Lloyd Williams) and her family; his special feline companions Jack and Jake; as well as many friends. He was also blessed by many colleagues, former students, and their families who also became good friends.

Having grown up in Front Royal, Virginia, Mr. Potts graduated from Warren County High School in the Class of 1977. He earned a B.A. with High Distinction in French and History from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, an M.S. in Education with Emphasis in Teaching from Shenandoah University in Winchester, and an M.A. in Foreign Languages with Emphasis in French from George Mason University in Fairfax. Mr. Potts also studied abroad numerous times, in Angers, France; Trois-Rivières, Québec; and Trois-Pistoles, Québec.

Mr. Potts devoted a 42-year career in education to Clarke County Public Schools in Berryville, VA. At various points during that time, he taught French language, from exploratory courses at the middle-school level through Honors French VI at the high

school level; he served as an adjunct instructor in French for dual enrollment at Laurel Ridge Community College; he coordinated Clarke's International Baccalaureate Diploma Program; he co-coordinated Clarke's dual enrollment programs with Laurel Ridge and Shenandoah University; he coordinated Clarke's Bridge Program with James Madison University; he established and taught Clarke's first Virginia Teachers for Tomorrow program; he co-sponsored the CCHS Scholastic Bowl team through numerous winning seasons; and he co-sponsored the CCHS GSA in support of LGBTQ+ students and allies.

Outside of work, Mr. Potts enjoyed numerous activities. With Richard, he loved to plan and carry out summer travel, especially to New Orleans, to the American West and Southwest, and of course to the Jersey Shore for an annual beach pilgrimage. He was an avid amateur photographer who won several awards for his photography work. He loved all kinds of animals and never wanted to be without at least one pet; he became an enthusiastic cyclist, runner, and yoga, he loved cooking and experimenting with new recipes; and he thoroughly enjoyed reading, all sorts of puzzles and games, and any type of technological gadget. He also took a special pleasure in being artistic with fashion and dressing well.

Mr. Potts belonged to the Unitarian-Universalist Church of the Shenandoah Valley while living in Winchester.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: The Clarke County Education Foundation PO Box 1252 Berryville, VA, 22611 or the Animal Welfare Society of Jefferson County at PO Box 147 Charles Town, WV 25414.

A funeral service will be held 1:00 pm Saturday, January 4, 2025 in the Clarke County High School's auditorium 627 Mosby Blvd, Berryville, VA. Friends will be received from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. All are welcome, and there will be an opportunity to share a brief memory of or anecdote about Mr. Potts from any guest who wishes to do so.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 4. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Clarke County High School
627 Mosby Boulevard
Berryville, VA

Service

JAN 4. 1:00 PM (ET)

Clarke County High School
627 Mosby Boulevard
Berryville, VA

Tribute Wall

CM

“ I was fortunate enough to have met Thom through the graduate program we were in at Mason. We were both studying French there and paired up in class many times. We discovered that we both were from this area where he worked in Clarke County, I lived in Clarke County and where I taught in Frederick County, he lived there. He was an absolutely lovely human being who was so incredibly cerebral and kind. I often think back to our many conversations in those grad classes and how much wisdom he bestowed on me as a newer teacher. Such a loss for Clarke County, the teaching profession, and for society. My deepest condolences to his family.
À plus tard mon ami!



"La douleur est un siècle et la mort un moment" - Jean-Baptiste Louis Gresset

*Amicalement,
Crystal M.*

Crystal M. - January 03, 2025 at 10:42 AM

EB

“ Dear Richard, Rusty joins me in extending our heartfelt sympathy on the sad news of Thom's passing. Just being yourselves, you both enriched our lives. Hope our paths will cross again soon. Warm regards, Ed Blanton and Rusty Lynn

Ed Blanton - January 02, 2025 at 10:54 AM

KR

“ *Mr. Potts was a kind and thoughtful colleague. My deepest sympathy for his family. Katie Roles*

Katie Roles - January 01, 2025 at 10:07 AM

ML

“ *What a gift to have Thom Potts as a friend, family member or teacher. He was always smart, funny, wise & kind – a real Virginia gentleman. I'd hoped for a visit & more long chats with him, but his time here ended too soon.*

Bon voyage, Mr. Potts! We love you! We'll be with you in the by-and-by.

Condolences to Richard, along with all friends & family. May we honor Thom's exemplary life with our good deeds!

Mary Lickert - December 30, 2024 at 09:02 PM

AB

“ *Bruce. I am so sorry for your loss. Prayers and condolences to you, the family and to his partner and friends.*

Anne Braden - December 30, 2024 at 06:42 PM

AB

“ *Anne Braden lit a candle in memory of Thomas Potts*



Anne Braden - December 30, 2024 at 06:41 PM

ML

“ My condolences to the family of Mr. Potts. He was a great guy and will be sorely missed.

Mark Lupton - December 30, 2024 at 12:01 AM

BL

“ Thom taught the world to be a better place.

Bill Lukens - December 28, 2024 at 02:57 PM

TV

“ I feel lucky to have known Mr. Potts. A true gentleman if ever there was one. My children were lucky to have been educated by him. I shared these feelings with Thom one day at school. He put his heart and soul into advocating for the IB Program simply because he saw the value in it. The time he spent sponsoring and coaching Scholastic Bowl for CCHS benefited many students including my own. I will miss his dry wit, nutritious additions to every pot luck, and his ability to accurately assess a situation with the precision of a surgeon.
My deepest condolences to Richard, his family, and close friends. CCHS was a better place because of Thom; now heaven gets its turn.

Tammy Viti - December 27, 2024 at 08:19 PM

JT

“ I said this in Facebook, but wanted to put it here as well. He was my French teacher in ninth and tenth grade, so 2008-2010. Mr. Potts was just a chill dude. He always pushed me to get better and better. He knew that despite my lack of efforts, I could accomplish way more if I just put my head to it. Because of this, I'd always surprise myself in those nerve wracking oral exams out in the hallway during class. Looking back on my countless regrets from high school, one I think about more than others is my laziness and attitude towards French class. But he never cared, he helped me the many, many times I asked, always with a smile. He was an amazing teacher, an all around good dude, and he'll surely be missed.

Jack Tintaya - December 27, 2024 at 01:37 PM

AK

Thom Potts was a consummate teacher and educator

Andrew Kiser - December 29, 2024 at 05:59 PM

LH

“ M. Potts not only one of my favorite teachers, but one of my hugest supporters ever!!! Even after school, every time I saw him in person he was supportive and encouraging of me and my dreams. I'm so glad that through Facebook I was able to reunite with him despite having moved across the country. He was truly one of the most beautiful souls and brightest lights in the universe. 🕯️ He will be missed by so many!!!



May love and peace be with you as you soar through the multiverse!



Au revoir, mon cher ami! Tu seras dans mon cœur pour toujours!

À bientôt!

Je t'embrasse,

Laure

CCHS '89

Laura Hovermale - December 27, 2024 at 01:28 AM

MS

“ After meeting Richard on a cruise while Thom was working, I met Thom that next summer for a Bike ride through the streets of Philadelphia

RIP Thom

Michael Schmidt - December 26, 2024 at 11:17 PM

BH

“ I met Thom and Richard through mutual friends. Together, we formed a 5 man team For weekly trivia in Shepherd's town. We were the team to beat and even got a write up in a local publication. It was always the highlight of my week. it all ended with covid. But Thom and I kept in touch frequently via text and emails Sharing our common interests and secrets. I appreciated his sense of humor and admired his intelligence. He was a dedicated teacher. Many students are better off for just having known him. I will remember Thom by a picture he sent me. It was taken from behind him. He's standing naked in the forest with his arms raised to the sky. It is captioned ,celebrate freedom, life , and nature. A very apropos epitaph. We do indeed celebrate his life. Mourn his freedom. And honor his love of nature.

Bill Hibbett - December 26, 2024 at 09:26 PM

LM

“ I am so sorry for your loss.

Linda Mills - December 26, 2024 at 07:21 PM

GG

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Georgia Gessler - December 26, 2024 at 07:06 PM