



Mr. John Thomas Dillon

April 19, 1965 - May 29, 2026

John Thomas Dillon, age 61, formerly of Gulf Shores, Alabama, passed away on May 29, 2026, while residing at Cloverdale Manor in Scottsboro, Alabama.

He was born on April 19, 1965, to Richard Dillon and Carolyn Rowley Dillon in Cristóbal, Canal Zone, now part of Panama. He was raised in Panama until moving to the United States in 1985 to attend Florida State University.

John is survived by his sons, Matthew Thomas Dillon (Anna), and John Patrick Dillon (Annie); his granddaughter, Callie Kay Dillon; his brother, Robert Dillon; his aunt, Helen McDonald; and numerous cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, Richard Dillon and Carolyn Rowley Dillon.

Growing up in Panama, John developed a deep appreciation for the tropical lifestyle, which he often expressed through his artwork, his true passion, and through the places and ways he chose to live. After moving to the United States, he lived in several locations, including Northeast Alabama and East Tennessee, where his artistic focus of tropical landscapes, marine life, and scenes of Panama evolved to include the mountainous landscapes and wildlife of the Appalachian region.

Eventually, John made it back to the coast, the place that felt most like home, where he lived for many years in Gulf Shores. No matter where life took him,

he always considered Panama his true home. Wherever he lived, John filled his surroundings with reminders of his childhood, creating spaces that reflected the place where he was raised and the memories he cherished. He was proud of his heritage and enjoyed sharing stories of Panama and the Canal Zone with everyone he met.

John was known for his kind heart, friendly nature, and genuine interest in others. He was beloved by his many friends and rarely met a stranger. He enjoyed music from the 1970s and 1980s, had a lifelong appreciation for science fiction and storytelling, and remained curious about the world around him throughout his life.

John's faith was deeply personal and an important part of his life. His relationship with Jesus Christ provided strength, comfort, and guidance throughout his life.

The family would like to extend their sincere gratitude to John's friends who supported him throughout the years and to the staff of Cloverdale Manor for the care, kindness, and compassion they provided during his time of need.

At this time, no funeral service is planned. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to an animal shelter of your choice or to the Gulf Coast Arts Alliance, 225 East 24th Avenue, Gulf Shores, Alabama 36542.

Tribute Wall

JB

“ John, rest in peace. I was usually at the Millers, but I remember playing a lot of outside night games at your house on the dead end street and a bunch of us got to see Battlestar Galáctica in your living room. You are a Diablo boy and may God bless your family in this time of need. Jim Burch

Jim Burch - June 04 at 01:17 AM



“ John lived on the Dead end next to the Millers in Diablo, Bobby and John were Diablo boys, and that is a great honor to have been from the same townsite. May God bless all of his family, especially during this difficult time.



John Kraemer - June 02 at 06:08 PM



“ We played cards and shared stories 4 or 5 years ago. He remained a friend. I am sorry we lost touch a couple of years ago. I enjoyed talking to him in the gift dept at Coastals when he worked there. He encouraged me to paint a bit and now I regret not getting one of his paintings. Hopefully some are in the art gallery. He was a sweetheart. He will be missed.

Rhonda Smith - June 02 at 12:16 PM

MT

“ I grew up with John and his brother, Bobby (Robert) in Panama. We later hung out in Tallahassee when he worked for the Mill Bakery , Eatery, and Brewery along with my ex-husband, Mark Liermann. The restaurant, The Mill took us all Savannah Georgia along with John. And if my memory serves right, that is where he met his wife Mary. We had fun memories as we all tried to find our way in the restaurant business.

He was a soft spoken man with a kind soul. His artistic talents were incredible and will always stand out with his unique style.

You will be missed, John.

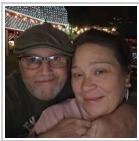
I want to express my deepest condolences to both of his sons and his family. along with many prayers for strength and understanding. Bobby, I send you a big hug of comfort my old friend.

Maty Toston - June 01 at 05:41 AM

CC

“ Having lived on the Atlantic side of the Panama Canal from 1970-1988, I am so sorry for your loss and hope you can be consoled with fond memories of your beloved Zonian.

Carla Dear Conrad - May 31 at 10:08 PM



“ Give my momma a big hug for me up in Heaven. I had so many great memories. One of my favorites was u and my mom playing Mr and Mrs Clause for Christmas. Xoxo



Jennifer Blackburn - May 31 at 09:38 PM