

# MOMENTS THAT MATTER MOST

*A Wedding in Autumn Light*



When Angelique and Thomas first started talking on Facebook Dating the connection was instant. When they finally met in person, it was love at first sight.

She was beginning a new job in Washington, DC. He was a teacher in Rockville, Maryland, and five years cancer-free after battling a brain tumor.

They connected instantly. “We were vibrating at the same level of energy,” she says. He was a musician. She is an artist. They shared creativity, optimism, and a deep appreciation for life. “I knew he was the right person for me right away.”

Together, they built a beautiful life and joyfully welcomed their son Leo. But when Thomas’ cancer returned, everything changed. Their focus became time, and how to honor it.



Hospice first met them at home. As a young family, new to the area, they were navigating more than illness. Hospice nurses, aides, social workers, and volunteers stepped in to care for Thomas and support Angelique as both caregiver and mother. The team helped her prepare for what was ahead and guided her through decisions she never imagined having to make.



When Thomas’ needs became greater, he was admitted to the Eleanor A. Koons Hospice House. “It was like doing it in our home, in a safe place,” she explains. Surrounded by a team who already knew them, their care continued seamlessly.

Although they were already legally married, the couple wanted their marriage to be recognized and blessed within the Catholic Church. When Father Nash proposed celebrating a full Catholic ceremony at Hospice House, they said yes without hesitation.

The day felt, in her words, “like heaven on earth.” Outside Thomas’ room, under warm autumn sunlight, the hospice team transformed the space with fall flowers and seasonal touches.

**“ As caregivers, we forget about ourselves, Talbot Hospice guided me through the darkness. ”**



Friends, volunteers, nurses, and staff gathered not simply as caregivers, but as witnesses to love. Thomas remained in his bed, handsome and smiling. Dr. Sanchez walked her down the aisle toward him. His mother stood beside him. Fr. Nash led the service and blessed their marriage. A hospice volunteer played music during the service, and a professional photographer captured their special ceremony. Their son joined them, wrapped in the love surrounding his parents.

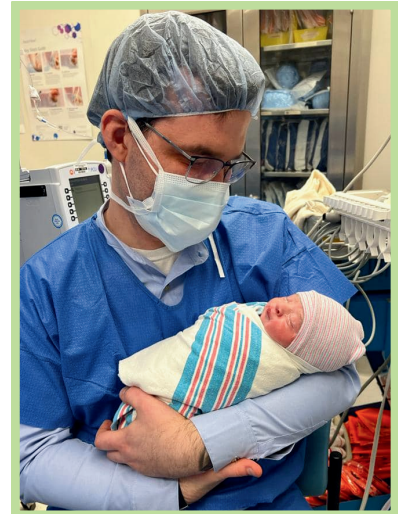
"I knew in my heart he didn't have much time," she says. "This was something he really wanted. And it came true."

Behind that beautiful day was a team quietly making it possible. They listened when Angelique mentioned their love of autumn. What she expected to be simple decorations became a full celebration, complete with live music and a professional photographer. "I was amazed," she remembers. "So many unexpected things that were perfect."

Thomas passed away peacefully, just a few days later.

In those final days, Angelique was able to remain by his side, not as a caregiver, but as his wife and the mother of their young son. Surrounded by a team who already knew them, she did not have to navigate those moments alone.

The support they had received at home continued at Hospice House, seamlessly and with the same compassion. What began as care became something more, a steady presence during the most tender moments.



After Thomas' death, that support did not end. Angelique still visits with their son, Leo. They stop in to say hello and share how he is growing. The staff who once cared for Thomas now greet them like family. "It feels like talking to friends," she says. "I can feel that they really care about us." She hopes to place Thomas' name on a plaque at Hospice House, honoring the place where their marriage was blessed and where they created their final memories together.

"I will always remember the support and our last memories with my family at Hospice House," she says. "I'm very grateful for the love they have shown to us."

In life's most difficult moments, hospice made space for what mattered most to this family: love, connection, and being together. And for this family, those moments will last a lifetime.

## You Can Bring Comfort in Life's Most Sacred Moments

You never know when someone will need hospice care or how much those moments will matter. When that time comes, what you want most is comfort, compassion, and the chance to create meaningful memories together.

Because of supporters like you, families facing life's hardest moments are not alone.

