



## Thomas Dewey Holt

May 28, 1939 - November 8, 2023

Our family is deeply saddened to announce the passing of Thomas Dewey Holt on November 8, 2023. Tom was born in New Prospect, Tennessee on May 28, 1939 to the late William Joseph Holt and Mayme Ford Holt. He moved with his family to the Edwina Community in 1954, which became Tom's lifelong home. After attending Cosby High School, Tom joined the United States Army and was stationed in Fort Polk, Louisiana as part of the US Army 5th Missile Battalion. He spent most of his military service in Germany. Tom enjoyed the adventure of his military life, but his love of the East Tennessee Mountains brought him home.

First and foremost, Tom loved his family. In 1965 Tom met and married Judith Anne Ford, his beloved wife of 58 years. They were blessed with two children, Virginia and Andrew. Tom remained close to his brother and sisters Hooper, Aileen, Janice, Josie, and Irene. He loved planning and attending family activities and reunions. Tom had a variety of jobs before he found his place and passion in small business ownership. Tom and Judy operated the Edwina Grocery for 33 years and Newport Asphalt Sealers, a company they co-founded in 1984, for almost 40 years. His son, Andy, later joined him in this family owned and operated business.

Growing up with the fields, streams, and mountains as his playground, Tom developed a deep appreciation for the nature, people and history of the rural areas of his youth. He delighted in taking family members on a ride in his Bronco to "the old places," telling lots of family stories, and instilling in each

person a stronger connection to a family legacy of faith, courage, sacrifice, and honor. Tom was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting and fishing. Reluctant to share the location of his catch, Tom and his son, Andy, almost always won the annual Holt family fishing competition at Fripp Island, South Carolina.

Church, community, and friendships were important to Tom. He and Judy were active members of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church for many years. He was also a devoted supporter of the Edwina Community, taking on important roles to ensure that the needs of community members were being met. Tom was a founding member of the Edwina High Oaks Hunting Club, where he enjoyed spending time and swapping hunting stories with fellow hunt club members. Through the years, this group of friends raised thousands of dollars for St. Jude Children's Hospital. Tom touched many lives and made countless friends from all walks of life.

In addition to his parents, Tom was preceded in death by his sisters Aileen Holt Williamson and Josephine Bowman Kauffman, brother Allen Hooper Holt, and infant sister Shirley Holt. He is survived by his devoted wife Judy Ford Holt; daughter Virginia Holt Bieber (Jeff), son Andrew (Heather), and daughter Jan O'Lear Coaker (Jamie); grandchildren William Bieber, Brady Holt, Abigail Holt, Camden Holt, Emma Holt, Megan Briscoe (Jarod), Jessi Webb (Jake), Katherine Hance (John), and five great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister Janice Canan and sister and brother-in-law Irene and Gary Hance, sister-in-law Martha Ford Sutton, brothers-in-law Jerry (Rita) Ford, Bill (Brenda) Ford, sister-in-law Carolyn Ford, and niece Cindy Ford. Tom leaves behind several adoring nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made in Tom's memory (for an outdoor bench in his honor) to Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, 1645 Pleasant Grove Road, Newport, TN 37821. Or to The University of Tennessee Medical Center Cancer Institute. Gifts can be made by calling 865-305-6611 or sent to the Office of Philanthropy, c/o Cancer Institute at: 2121 Medical Center Way, Suite 110, Knoxville, TN 37920, <https://www.utmedicalcenter.org/give-back/give->

now.

A memorial service honoring Tom's life will be November 18th at 11:00 am at Pleasant Grove Church with Pastor Glenn Franklin and Reverend Mike Hensley officiating. Interment will follow at Shady Grove Cemetery.

Pallbearers are Joe Bowman, Rufus Ford, Austin Ford, Ryan Buckley, Tyler Buckley, Chad Wardrep and Seth Arrowood. Honorary Pallbearers are Clayton Bowman, Steve Ford and Zach Ball.

Reception for family and friends will follow the interment at Mountain Fields Homestead at 2:00 pm. The family will greet friends and family at the reception. There will also be an opportunity to share a fun memory, story or kind word about Tom at the reception.

Family and friends may stop by Manes Funeral Home to sign the guest register or online at [www.manesfunearlhome.com](http://www.manesfunearlhome.com).

Arrangements by Manes Funeral Home.

# Previous Events

## Memorial service

NOV 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church  
1645 Pleasant Grove Rd  
Newport, TN 37821-6137  
(423) 415-2453

## Reception

NOV 18. 2:00 PM.

Mountain Fields Homestead

# Tribute Wall

ML

“ *We send our love and condolences to the whole family.*

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**Mac & Heather Leibrock** - November 19, 2023 at 01:25 PM

BR

“ *So sorry about Tommy he was a good person and a joy to be around.Love Brenda and Charlie Rollins*

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**Brenda rollins** - November 18, 2023 at 11:42 AM

PJ

“ *We are so sorry for your loss. Tommy was a good man who always had a smile to share. We are praying for your family. With love, Rusty and Penny James*

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**Penny James** - November 18, 2023 at 09:42 AM

BF

“ *So sorry to hear about Tommy's passing. Prayers for Peace & Comfort during this difficult time. I have many fond memories of him. He'll live forever in our hearts. With Deepest Sympathy, Butch Ford*

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**Butch Ford** - November 17, 2023 at 06:55 PM

AS

“ *Judy and family...I'm so sorry for your loss. I have a lot of great memories of Tommy...loved to talk to him at the store...he was such a good neighbor to everyone in Edwina and will be greatly missed. Prayers for the family*

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**Arzella Mantooth Shelton** - November 17, 2023 at 09:28 AM

BN

“ Sorry for your lost you're all in my prayers 🙏🙏

**Bert Victor Naillon** - November 16, 2023 at 10:19 AM

JH

“ So sorry to hear of your loss, Andy. Prayers for you and the family in the days and months ahead that God will bring comfort and healing.

**John Henderson** - November 16, 2023 at 09:36 AM

RF

“ Tommy was a good man and friend him and Judy,Andy and his sister, no better family than this may God bless the whole family during this time of loss.

**Rickey Ferguson** - November 15, 2023 at 04:31 PM

PB

“ Patt, Don, Shirley and all The Bryans purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Thomas Dewey Holt.



**Patt, Don, Shirley and all The Bryans** - November 15, 2023 at 01:30 PM

WW

“ I am sorry for your loss, sending prayers.

**Wilma Webb** - November 14, 2023 at 01:10 PM

JB

“ So sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Jimmy and Charlotte Blazer



Jimmy and Charlotte Blazer - November 14, 2023 at 12:49 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas Dewey Holt.



November 14, 2023 at 10:39 AM

RC

“ Judy and Family. We are so sorry for your loss. We know he is in a better place now. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Roger and Diane Cogdill

Roger & Diane Cogdill - November 13, 2023 at 08:48 PM

RC

“ Tommy was a dear friend of ours. He used to come up to the garage to check on me. We could talk for hours about hunting, fishing. We worked together at Hills paving. Tommy always looked out for me. I can just see him walking on those golden streets now. We will miss him dearly. Roger and Diane Cogdill

Roger & Diane Cogdill - November 13, 2023 at 08:44 PM

CT

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with each of you.*

*George & Charlotte Tweed*

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**Charlotte Tweed** - November 13, 2023 at 12:26 PM

VW

“ *Judy and family, So sorry to hear of this sad news, but you know we've always been told God takes the best and that Tommy surely was. Growing up with my Mother (Pauline) and her sister Aunt Carolyn . They always made it clear to us what good people they were. I always loved Tommy and he held a precious place in my heart. Always making you laugh and talking about living in God's country and now he surely does. May God comfort your hearts with his Love. Vida & Hoover Williamson*

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**Vida Williamson** - November 13, 2023 at 11:31 AM

TF

“ *May God's loving Presence comfort you, His perfect peace restore you, and His promise of eternal life sustain you during this time of loss.*

*With Heartfelt Deepest Sympathy,  
Jabo & Tammy Francis*

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**Tammy Francis** - November 13, 2023 at 10:30 AM

BC

“ *Judy and family, sorry to hear about Tommy's passing. My prayers and thoughts are with you all. Always liked talking with him when I would stop at your store for a sandwich.*

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**Bobby Clevenger** - November 12, 2023 at 02:13 PM

BE

“ So sorry for your loss. We had fond memories of him. He will be missed.

Byron and Susie Ellison - November 12, 2023 at 11:52 AM

AS

“ Angela Styles lit a candle in memory of Thomas Holt



Angela Styles - November 12, 2023 at 08:24 AM

DW

“ Our prayers are for the family at this very difficult time. May God's presence give you comfort in the days, weeks and months ahead.

Don & Barbara Welch

Don & Barbara Welch - November 11, 2023 at 06:37 PM



“ I'm so sorry for your loss love and prayers  
Misty Dunn and Diane Hembree



Misty Dunn - November 11, 2023 at 05:15 PM

MJ

“ Judy and Family. We are so very sorry to hear of Tommy's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with each of you during this time. May Our Heavenly Father bring the peace and comfort as only He can to help each of you through the loss of such a Wonderful Man. 🙏❤️

Mike & Sandra Jenkins - November 11, 2023 at 04:58 PM

JF

“ We are sorry for your loss. All of you will be in our thoughts and prayers. Tommy and Andy were very good and dependable workers. May God be with you and comfort you in the days to come. Love, James and Gail Frisbee

James. and. Gail. Frisbee - November 11, 2023 at 03:46 PM

JF

“ James. Gail. Frisbee lit a candle in memory of Thomas Holt



James. and. Gail. Frisbee - November 11, 2023 at 03:36 PM

BE

“ Andy, Jan and family. We're praying for you during this difficult time. May God bring peace and comfort in your time of need.

Benjamin Evans - November 11, 2023 at 02:48 PM

DO

“ *My deepest condolences to you all in the loss of Tommy. In thinking about him, I realized that no matter the circumstances in which we met, he was one of the happiest people I have ever known. What a blessing! We should all strive to be the same.*

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**Duay O'Neil** - November 11, 2023 at 11:57 AM