



## Thomas Jay Lawson

January 8, 1934 - March 21, 2015

The heavens were rejoicing as Thomas Jay Lawson, age 81, passed away on Saturday, March 21, 2015, at Oak Hills Terrace Memory Care. Tom was born January 8, 1934 in Sapulpa, Oklahoma to Beulah and Russell Lawson, and raised by his dad and stepmother, Agnes (Aggie) Lawson. Tom was a wrestler and a manager for the football team at Sapulpa High School. After high school graduation, he attended The University of Oklahoma, where he was a member of the wrestling team.

In 1953, while working for Tower Exploration in Gillette, Wyoming, Tom met the love of his life, Dixie Ann Evans. They married September 3, 1954, spent 59 years loving each other and raising their three devoted daughters, and making a lifetime of memories as they moved from state to state. They settled in Tyler, Texas in May of 1965. Tom worked for Ward Exploration, Price International, and retired from Brookshire's after serving 11 years as their mailman.

Tom's number one passion in life was following his love for Jesus Christ. He strived to walk with Christ daily and to always follow God's plan for his life. He loved to tell others about Jesus Christ. "Papa Lawson" had the privilege of baptizing several of his grandchildren. He had a great love and passion for Prison Ministry. Every Wednesday after work for twenty years, he would go with Ray Todd, Spencer Miller, and Dr. Allan Paul to Beto Two Unit in Palestine, Texas. They would teach Master Life and disciple prisoners. They always enjoyed stopping on the way home to get their weekly milk shake. Tom

was an active member and served as a deacon at Green Acres Baptist Church. He had a heart for missionary work and made several trips to Latvia. Tom enjoyed playing 42, cribbage, skip-bo, softball, and golf. He would attend the TJC basketball games screaming "Holy Cow." He loved watching the Dallas Cowboys and screaming "For Crying Out Loud." He even had an official referee yellow flag that he would throw while screaming at the referee "You're as blind as a bat." Many friends and family members loved to come over just to watch Tom watch (and react to) the football games. Papa Lawson enjoyed going and cheering on his grandchildren in many different types of events. He loved homemade ice cream and Jucys Hamburgers.

Tom was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Dixie; parents, Russell and Beulah Lawson; stepmother, Agnes Lawson; brother, John Lawson; sister and brother-in-law, Joan and Francis Ford.

Tom is survived by his loving family, including his three daughters and their husbands; Beverly and James Smith of Mount Ida, Arkansas; Debbie and Jim Stanford of Colleyville, Texas; Velvet and Gregg Potter of Tyler Texas; and his six grandchildren; Lawson Smith, Allison Smith, John Thomas Stanford, Staci Stanford, Elizabeth Potter, and Kelsey Potter. He loved his Yorkie "John Wayne."

The family had a private graveside service at Rose Lawn Cemetery in Tyler, Texas, officiated by his longtime friend and pastor, Dr. Paul W. Powell. There will be a Celebration of Life service on Saturday, March 28, 2015, at 2 p.m. at the Green Acres Baptist Church Chapel, officiated by Pastors Dr. David O. Dykes, Dr. Paul W. Powell, and Dr. R. Craig Etheredge. Arrangements are with Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Following the service, the family would like for you to join them for a reception in the Garden Room at Green Acres Baptist Church.

The family is most grateful and appreciative to both staffs at Sundance/Oak Hills Terrace Memory Care and Heart to Heart Hospice for their exceptional care for their dad. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that any memorials or gifts be made to the Alzheimer's Alliance of Smith County, 211 Winchester

Drive, Tyler, 75701.

# Cemetery Details

## Rose Lawn Cemetery

2003 Blue Mountain Blvd.  
Tyler, TX 75703

# Previous Events

## PRIVATE Graveside Service

MAR 24. 2:00 PM (CT)

Rose Lawn Cemetery  
2003 Blue Mountain Blvd.  
Tyler, TX 75703

## Celebration of Life

MAR 28. 2:00 PM (CT)

Green Acres Baptist Church  
1607 Troup Hwy.  
Tyler, TX 75701

## Reception following service

MAR 28. 3:00 PM (CT)

Green Acres Baptist Church  
1607 Troup Hwy.  
Tyler, TX 75701



# Tribute Wall

BC

“ My prayers extend out to the Lawson family during this time. I have great memories of Tom from when I worked for Brookshire's from 1990-2001. We would talk about many things together and Tom always had a smile on his face. A great servant of God. Tom will be missed.

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**Brent Crozier** - March 27, 2015 at 11:05 AM

LR

“ Tom always had a smile on his face and something uplifting to say to everyone he talked to. My prayers go out to his family, as he will be missed.

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**Lou Ann Rockwell-Huseth** - March 24, 2015 at 04:43 PM

TM

“ Tom was such an inspiration to us all at the Print Shop especially me. My name is Tim McClenny and I started Brookshires in 1992. Right after I started my Dad went downhill with cancer and died in 93. Tom was always there to minister to me and strengthen me. During the years He was still there we would have some wild 42 games.  
Tom's passion for the prison ministry played a big part in my own Church activities. Whenever I had doubts about teaching Sunday School or anything like that He would always say "You can do it Tim just trust in the Lord".  
Tom was a gentle, kind, caring strong Christain Man and will be forever missed in my heart.  
God Bless Your Family!

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**tim mcclenny** - March 24, 2015 at 04:06 PM



*Tom will be missed by many. He had a wonderful family and many friends. God used him in many ways Tom was a faithful servant and he was a blessing to many.*

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**Jeff Jones** - March 25, 2015 at 08:14 PM