



Thomas E. Mallory

April 1, 1924 - November 21, 2013

A lifelong resident of Smith County, Thomas Earl Mallory, 89, passed away peacefully November 21, 2013 at The Hospice of East Texas. Tom was born April 1, 1924 on a farm in the Sabine community near Lindale. During World War II he served in the Eighth Army Air Force in England and, decades later, attended several 486th bomb group reunions, including one this fall. He and wife of 66 years, Betty, were longtime members of Wesley United Methodist Church (now Tyler First UMC) and recently have been members of Pollard United Methodist Church, where Tom was in the Epworth Class and sang in the Glory Singers choir. He was also a member of the Men's Breakfast group at First Christian Church, a founding member of the Sunrise Prayer Fellowship, and a Mason for 60-plus years.

Wherever he went in Tyler, Tom reliably saw someone he knew. Many knew him as a barber for decades and owner of Tom's Barber Shop. He was also widely known as a Western Swing musician. Music became his passion as a boy, playing guitar to his dad's fiddle at house parties during the Depression. As a teenager he played guitar and sang with local musicians who later became country legends. In the 1950s he played live shows on KTBB radio to promote Saturday shows at the Mayfair Building where he performed with early country stars.

Music took a backseat to raising a family. After retirement Tom formed a band, which still plays as the Texas Swingers, in which he played until his recent illness. He was never happier than when on stage. The pinnacle of his

musical career came in May when he was inducted into the Texas Western Swing Hall of Fame. In music, family, church, and country, Tom Mallory's was a life well lived.

Tom is survived by wife, Betty Ruth Smith Mallory; sons and daughters-in-law Randy Mallory and Sallie Evans, Tyler, David and Amy Mallory, Raleigh, NC, and daughter and son-in-law Pam and Von Johnson, Burbank, CA, and exchange student son, Gerhard Frech and wife Gudrun of Stuttgart, Germany. Visitation is Sat., Nov. 23, 2013 from 4-6 p.m. at Stewart Family Funeral Home. Services are Sun., Nov. 24, 2013 at 2:30 p.m. at Pollard United Methodist Church with the Rev. Dr. Charles Millikan officiating and special music by the Texas Swingers: G.L. Dean, Ron Sherrod, Dwayne & Mary Ann Meskimen, Johnny & Shirley Goodrich, and Larry Dunn. Private family graveside service is at Sabine Cemetery near Lindale. Pallbearers will be Tom's six beloved grandchildren: Evan Mallory, Elissa Mallory, Stacey Branson, Robert Mallory, Mallory Johnson, and Samantha Johnson. Memorials may be made to Pollard UMC, Sabine Cemetery Assn. (Box 54, Lindale, TX 75771), or The Hospice of East Texas Foundation.

Cemetery Details

Sabine Cemetery

CR 4122 and CR 452
Lindale, TX

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **23**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Service

NOV **24**. 2:30 PM (CT)

Pollard United Methodist Church
3030 Copeland Rd.
Tyler, TX 75701

Tribute Wall

RF

“ Ronny and I are so sorry we could not be there today. We are now living in Mansfield, Texas and the weather prevented us from traveling. Aunt Betty Ruth, you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. So thankful we were able to see all of you at the Smith reunion. Uncle Tom was always one of our favorites. We love you and God Bless you. Ronny and Connie

Ronny and Connie Fisher - November 24, 2013 at 02:41 PM

SE

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Sallie Evans - November 24, 2013 at 09:09 AM

JG

“ It was an honor to know and to share the love of music with you. You will be greatly missed.

*Until we meet again,
James Gallegly*

James Gallegly - November 23, 2013 at 01:31 PM

LL

“ *Mr. Mallory was a true gentleman! He used the musical talents that God gave him and always had an encouraging word to those around him. I will miss him.*

Linda Lane

Linda Lane - November 21, 2013 at 02:12 PM