



Thomas Earl Richards

July 1, 1942 - November 18, 2020

Services for Thomas Earl Richards, 78, of Tyler will be held on Saturday, November 21, 2020, at 3:00 p.m. at Rose Lawn Cemetery with Tom Alden officiating under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Mr. Richards passed away Wednesday, November 18, 2020, in Tyler. He was born July 1, 1942, in Houston to Forrest Richards and Maxine Williams Richards.

Tom was a member of Green Acres Baptist Church. He graduated from Aldine High School and SMU School of Banking. He had a 47 year career in banking beginning as a teller at age 17, working his way up to Vice President, Trust Department Manager, President, and CEO through hard work and dedication. He worked at five banks throughout Texas: Humble State Bank, Northeast Houston Bank, Lufkin National Bank, First City Tyler, and Regions Bank in Tyler and Longview. He served on numerous boards including Lufkin Memorial Hospital, East Texas Medical Center Tyler, United Way, multiple church finance committees, and Tyler Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the Rotary Club and volunteered for the mentally disabled in Longview.

Tom was known by those who worked with him and for him as a man of humility, honor, and integrity. His character always gained him respect. When he was diagnosed with a rare liver disease in 1992, he spoke to his colleagues about the peace he felt from Jesus Christ, knowing that God would take care of him. God did take care of Tom, who received a liver transplant in

1993 and a kidney transplant in 2010 at Baylor Medical Center. In 1993 only three hospitals in the U.S. were performing liver transplantations. Tom was a 27 year transplant survivor because he was disciplined to take care of his health every day and follow the guidelines concerning his health.

Tom was preceded in death by his mother and father. He is survived by his loving family including his beloved wife of 53 years, Gwen; his daughter Jennifer R. Alden and husband Tom of Rockwall. He has four grandchildren; Matthew Whitaker of Irving and Claire, Chloe, and Cate Alden of Rockwall. He is also survived by his brother, James Richards and wife, Desta of Conroe and sister Kathy Napoleon of Pearland. He has one niece and three nephews.

If desired, memorials may be made in memory of Tom to Samaritan's Purse, P.O. Box 3000, Boone, NC, 28607; PATH, 402 W. Front St., Tyler, TX 75702; or Wounded Warrior Project, 4301 Fillbrook Lane, Tyler, TX 75707. The family also encourages those who can to register to be an organ donor.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

NOV **21**. 3:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas Earl Richards*



Stewart Family Funeral Home - November 20, 2020 at 01:36 PM

JA

“ *Tom truly was a man of great faith and integrity. His presence with be missed here on earth and highly anticipated in Glory.*

*In Jesus,
Julie and Philip Aldredge*

julie and Philip Aldredge - November 22, 2020 at 07:59 AM

LP

“ *Gwen, so sorry to read about Tom. We know he is well and whole again in heaven with Jesus. You are in my thoughts and prayers.
Love, Lynn Parnell*

Lynn Parnell - November 21, 2020 at 10:55 AM

JW

“ *Gwen, was so saddened to learn of Tom's passing.
Please know you are on my heart and in my prayers.
Bob always held Tom in highest esteem.*

Joanne Williams - November 21, 2020 at 08:59 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Earl Richards.*



November 21, 2020 at 08:27 AM



“ *I first met Tom and Gwen at GABC. They came in as directors for our SS department. I loved them both right from the minute we met. Tom had a very soft speaking voice and sweetness smile. Just what our department needed, I could right off tell he was a man that loved Jesus, and Gwen. After being in their home could know he was a very loving family man. The love for those three granddaughters was easy to see.*

Tom is going to be greatly missed! I am going to be in prayer for you all, God will keep you in His loving arms in days ahead.

Nancy Godsey - November 20, 2020 at 07:48 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Thomas Earl Richards.*



November 20, 2020 at 05:43 PM

JA

“ I love the Richards family! I was around Mr. Richards a lot during the last 25 years, and I was always impressed with his kind and gentle spirit. He lead his family well, and his love for the Lord was a true witness. He also was a warrior, overcoming many obstacles that tried to bring him down with his health. He had true grit and strength. He will be missed greatly, and remembered for the wonderful human being that he was. Rest In peace, and know that you and your family will be together again someday.
Blessings,
Jacquelynn Alden

Jacquelynn Alden - November 20, 2020 at 04:14 PM

HP

“ Tom was the leader of one of my favorite families. His leadership, integrity, and kindness helped to shape my sweet friend Jenifer into a strong, fierce, sweet, and Godly woman. His legacy will be felt for generations to come.

Holly Pritchard - November 20, 2020 at 04:03 PM



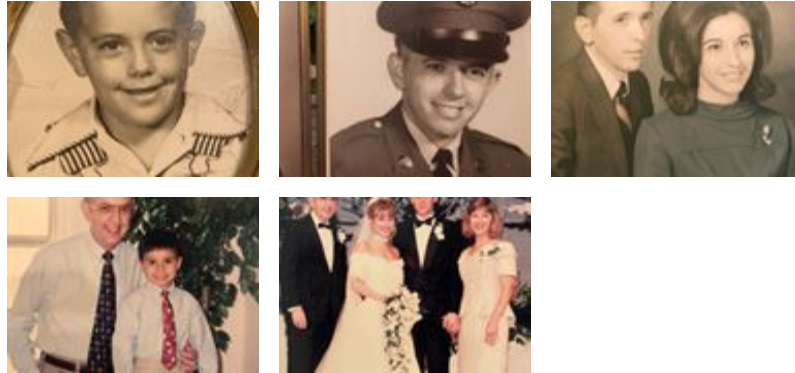
“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Earl Richards.



November 20, 2020 at 03:46 PM



“ 18 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Stewart Family Funeral Home - November 20, 2020 at 01:10 PM

LA

“ *Larry and Diane Mizell we remember you'll so well. We wish to you Gwen and children peace for the days ahead of adjustment. Great times with you'll in Lufkin.*

LarryMizell - November 20, 2020 at 10:34 AM