



Thomas "Tom" Rayford Rudd

December 17, 1935 - July 26, 2016

Services for Thomas "Tom" Rayford Rudd, 80, of Tyler, will be held on Tuesday, August 2, 2016 at 10:00 AM at Green Acres Baptist Church Chapel with Dr. David Dykes officiating.

Burial will follow at Cathedral in the Pines Cemetery in Tyler under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Mr. Rudd passed away Monday, July 25, 2016 in Whitehouse.

He was born December 17, 1935 in Tyler to Able Richard and Carra Lee Rayford Rudd.

Tom was a member of Green Acres Baptist Church, where he attended Sunday school. He was a 32nd Degree Mason at Henry Marsh Bell Lodge; York Rite; Sharon Shrine Temple; a member of the Royal Order of Jesters, Court 168; a member of the Centurions; the Order of the Rose; Willow Brook Country Club; a Limited Partner of Hollytree Country Club, where he served on the Board of Directors. He was the first President of the Hollytree Homeowners Association. Tom was also a member of the Associated General Contractors of America.

Tom was born in Tyler and attended Gary Elementary School, Hogg Junior High, Tyler High School and Tyler Junior College. He furthered his education at Texas A&I University, earning a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering.

After completing his studies Tom was employed by Howe Baker Engineering Company, where he assumed increasing responsibilities including postings in

New Jersey and in the United Kingdom. Upon returning from Europe, Tom worked for Intech, a company manufacturing plastics and monofilament products. From there Tom formed Allmark Incorporated, specializing in the installation of traffic markers, later to become Striping Technologies Inc. Following a highly successful career, Tom retired to Lake Tyler, a place he deeply loved.

Tom loved the outdoors, and big game hunting was a lifelong passion of his. He enjoyed sharing this passion for wildlife with his family and close friends, experiencing the pursuit of wild game on several safaris in Africa, and hunting expeditions across the United States, Mexico, Argentina, Europe and Canada. His love of African wildlife led him to become an early patron of a well-known African wildlife artist.

Charitable works were TR's way of giving back to the community, both in formal charitable events, and in individual acts of kindness to people where we saw a need, far too many to list. A regular participant in charitable auctions, Tom also supported the American Cancer Society, working with the Little Wranglers program as part of the ACS' annual Cattle Baron's Gala, the Shriner's Hospitals for Children, the American Red Cross, the Sherriff's Association of Texas, the Meals on Wheels Ministry, and many other charitable organizations.

Tom was a World Traveler, both for business and pleasure. Among the many destinations that took him around the world, Tom visited the Middle East (Saudi Arabia, Iran, Syria and Egypt), the Mediterranean (Greece, Malta), Europe (France, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, the United Kingdom), Australia, North and South America (Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Canada) and most of United States. With all his travels though, his favorite place on the planet was Lake Tyler. The lake was a recurring feature in his life from his teenage years through the rest of his days. A prominent fixture among the "Lake People" for many years, he had a large circle of close friends who lived or spent time at the Lake.

Tom lived life to the fullest. He was a wonderful chef, wine connoisseur, a

world traveler and loved to entertain family and friends. A kind and gentle person, Tom epitomized the true gentleman and has been a role model and mentor to family and friends of several generations.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Bobbie Joyce Rudd Freeman of Arlington.

He is survived by his loving family including son, Brent Rudd and wife Terry of Grapevine; daughter, Niki Rudd Hunt and husband Peter of Howe; daughter, Lana Rudd Schroeder of Tyler; step-son Jonathan Dickard and wife Amanda of Flint; grandchildren Cody Rudd and wife Reanne; Leigh Taylor; Logan Taylor; Travis Hunt; Blake Schroeder; Lauren Schroeder; and Preston Dickard; great grandsons Austin Rudd and Carson Rudd; sister Martha Rudd Harvey and husband George of Tyler; and 12 nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be Blake Schroeder, Logan Taylor, Travis Hunt, Cody Rudd, Billy McGwier and Jim Yates.

Honorary pallbearers will be the Royal Order of Jesters, Court 168.

Visitation is scheduled from 5:00 to 7:00 PM on Monday, August 1, 2016 at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway, in Tyler.

If desired, memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, 1301 S. Broadway, Tyler 75701 or Shriner's Burn Hospital in Galveston, 815 Market St., Galveston 77550.

Cemetery Details

Cathedral in the Pines Cemetery

7825 South Broadway Avenue
Tyler, TX 75703

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 1. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Service

AUG 2. 10:00 AM (CT)

Green Acres Baptist Church - Chapel
1607 Troup Hwy
Tyler, TX 75701

Tribute Wall

SS

“ I want to offer my condolences to the Rudd family. There are no words that can begin to explain, or even describe the loss. I am proud to say I knew Tom Rudd and was able to call him Uncle Tom for a time in my life. Those are some of the best times of my life. I thank God for providing me the opportunity to have someone that special cross my path in life's journey. For that I am blessed. Rest in peace Uncle Tom. Daddy has been waiting on you to play golf. Cheers.

Steve Sepmoree - August 01, 2016 at 11:56 PM

CL

“ There are so many treasured memories thru our many years of friendship with Tommy. We were blessed to be part of many of the great travels, fun adventures, fine food & special family occasions. TR lived a very full life that was filled with countless good deeds along the way. Tom was a man who truly walked the walk; always standing tall with a kind demeanor full of grace, dignity, and that funny, dry sense of humor. Niki, Brent & Lana, you must be so proud of your Dad! My heart goes out to you in this time of grief. May you find your peace in the legacy of wonderful memories he leaves behind. No doubt, Jerry LaB was amongst the first of the 'meet n greet' welcoming committee. Together---what amazing stories they will tell! I find it comforting to know we will meet again.



Cheryl LaBarba - July 31, 2016 at 03:10 PM

KA

“ Kim Whitehill -- Bureau of ATF purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Thomas "Tom" Rayford Rudd.



Kim Whitehill -- Bureau of ATF - July 31, 2016 at 02:46 PM

ME

“ My sympathy to Tom's loved ones, and may these promises bring comfort during this time of sorrow. Jehovah God is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. And he will wipe away the tears from all faces. Psalms 34:18; Isaiah 25:8. Peace be with you.

Michelle E. - July 31, 2016 at 09:22 AM

LB

“ Love always, Stacy and Josh Betts purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Thomas "Tom" Rayford Rudd.



Love always, Stacy and Josh Betts - July 30, 2016 at 10:32 AM

AP

“ Andy & Margaret Phillips purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Thomas "Tom" Rayford Rudd.



Andy & Margaret Phillips - July 30, 2016 at 08:44 AM

TP

“ Toni & Alan Payne purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of Thomas "Tom" Rayford Rudd.



Toni & Alan Payne - July 29, 2016 at 08:50 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas "Tom" Rayford Rudd.



July 29, 2016 at 03:04 PM

MS

“ We treasure our 35+ years of wonderful memories of fun times, adventures, steak dinners, fancy wine, and so much laughter with TR. He was a true gentleman with a big heart. We send our condolences to Brent and Nikki and their families. We love you, Tom.
Marilyn & Dale Scargall from Santa Fe.

Marilyn & Dale Scargall - July 29, 2016 at 09:17 AM

KU

“ Kelley And Lonny Uzzell lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Tom" Rayford Rudd



Kelley and Lonny Uzzell - July 28, 2016 at 09:26 PM

CH

“ Our sincere condolences for the loss of a great human being. He was an example of kindness and a friend to many, including us.

Clark and Patricia Hampe

Clark Hampe - July 28, 2016 at 12:16 PM

VH

“ Sorry to learn of your loss. He was a good friend. He was a great support when we lost our son, Dave.

Verlyne House - July 28, 2016 at 11:21 AM

PM

A wonderful brother-in-law. Looking forward to seeing him on the other side of the mountain, Pat Mallory

Pat Mallory - July 28, 2016 at 12:34 PM

DG

A lifelong friend and classmate. He will be missed always.

Dee Gill

Dee Gill - July 28, 2016 at 03:26 PM

JS

We became friends in 3rd grade at Gary Elementary, my wife and I had great times in high school with Tom, We will miss him, a good man.

Jimmy Guy and Glenda Smith - July 29, 2016 at 08:01 AM

SB

I got to know Tom in Tyler High. He was one of the sweetest and kindest man I have ever know. He will be missed.

Sherry Thompson Burns - July 29, 2016 at 12:03 PM