



Thomas Clanton Courington

August 24, 1927 - October 27, 2023

Thomas Clanton Courington was born August 24, 1927, in America, Alabama, to Thomas C. and Eddie (Daniel) Courington. Tom passed peacefully on Friday, Oct 27, 2023, in Tullahoma, TN. Pre-deceasing him were his parents; his three brothers, Herbert C., Rupert E., and Bill; his children, Richard C., Timothy E., and Charisa. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Sue Ellen (Smith) Courington of Tullahoma; his daughter, Susan D. Courington (Deborah Jones) of Manteo, NC; daughter-in-law Karre Courington; two grandchildren, Ian R. Courington (Melissa), and Ashley L. (Jesse) Caldwell and three great-granddaughters, Bennett, Posey, and Olive Caldwell, all of CA; nephew William M.

Courington, and niece, Carol L. Courington. In addition, he will be greatly missed by all of Sue's family, Barbara L. Spencer, and many other dear friends.

Tom graduated from the University of Alabama with both a BS degree and a Law degree. He served in the U. S. Army in the late 1940's. Following World War II, he put in 2-1/2 years in France and a brief time in Alaska. Later, Tom served as Chief Counsel of the U.S. Army's Armament Command in Rock Island, Illinois. In that position, he was awarded the Meritorious Civilian Service medal. Tom also taught Contracts Law at the Florida Institute of Technology's extension school. In the 1980s, Tom spent a great deal of time in Saudi Arabia, as well as Oman and

other Middle Eastern countries, while working for Vinnell Corporation. His Army service whetted his appetite for travel, which became a life-long passion for Tom and Sue. They traveled to all 50 states and over 35 foreign countries. While in San Diego, Tom enjoyed sailing, and was the Commodore of his company's sailing club.

After having lived in seven different communities during their marriage, Tom and Sue settled in Tullahoma in 1991, where they remained after retirement from Cubic Corporation. They joined First Christian Church (DOC), where Sunday School Classes, leadership opportunities, and worshipping together with many special friends enriched his life and those of others. Tom was honored as an Elder Emeritus. As a proud citizen of Tullahoma, Tom was very involved in the Tullahoma community. He took part in city planning efforts. He wrote a newspaper column, Grassroots, for almost six years (1994-2000), researching and reporting on community issues and local politics. He then converted Grassroots to a Channel 6 TV interview show, which he conducted from 2000 until 2019. Additionally, Tom worked hard to improve racial relations in this area, founding, along with Fredia Lusk, the on-going, "Forum on Racial Relations". Tom wrote a book (unpublished) on racial relations.

Visitation will be Saturday, November 4th, from 1-2 pm, with a Commemoration Service to follow at 2 pm, at First Christian Church, Tullahoma, TN. A private interment will follow.

For those who wish, donations in Tom's memory can be made to First Christian Church (120 NW Grundy, PO Box 606, Tullahoma, TN 37388), or online (www.firstchristiantullahoma.org).

Online condolences may be made at www.davesculbertsonfuneralhome.com Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 4. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

First Christian Church of Tullahoma
120 West Grundy Street
Tullahoma,, TN 37388

Funeral Service

NOV 4. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Christian Church of Tullahoma
120 West Grundy Street
Tullahoma,, TN 37388

Burial

NOV 4 (CT)

Rose Hill Memorial Gardens
4758 New Manchester Highway
Tullahoma, TN 37388
<http://www.rosehillmemorialgardens.com/>

Tribute Wall

PY

“ Polly, Betsy and Marcus Youngquist purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Thomas Clanton Courington.



Polly, Betsy and Marcus Youngquist - November 03, 2023 at 08:04 PM

MS

“ Mary Jane and John Earl Spencer planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Clanton Courington.

Mary Jane and John Earl Spencer - November 02, 2023 at 02:35 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Thomas Clanton Courington.

November 02, 2023 at 01:09 PM



“ Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Thomas Clanton Courington.



November 02, 2023 at 01:09 PM

RC

“ I am honored to have known Tom Courington for at least the past 55 years and consider him and his wife Sue as my “best friends”.

During the numerous social events we enjoyed together, Tom's personality and behavior was constant. He was patient, compassionate, wise and exceedingly soft-spoken.

Tom was also gentle and above all, an authentically great listener and advisor. During our many years together, I sought his counsel on numerous occasions.

Now, this special gentle man has been called away – most likely for a far greater purpose. He will be greatly missed by me and by many others who, like me, have been privileged to have known him.

Roy W. Cobb

Roy Cobb - October 31, 2023 at 06:15 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Clanton Courington.



October 31, 2023 at 05:29 PM

DM

“ *Tom has been a fine friend and encourager; a gentle and strong spirit who will be missed. Respectfully, Dave and Patty McIntyre, Normandy*



Dave McIntyre - October 30, 2023 at 07:12 PM

JD

“ *Janelle@ Dr.Nichols lit a candle in memory of Thomas Courington*



Janelle@ Dr.Nichols - October 30, 2023 at 02:20 PM