



Mr. Joseph Thomas Kennedy Jr.

July 22, 1953 - October 4, 2019

Joseph Thomas Kennedy, Jr., “Tom” age 66 of Southside, Alabama passed away Friday evening while enjoying one of his passions – deer hunting. Tom was born in Bristol, Virginia to the late Joseph Thomas Kennedy, Sr., and Opal Pearl Begley Kennedy. He had worked at Combustion Engineering, began his law enforcement career at Fort Oglethorpe Police Department, then to Chickamauga Police Department and retired from Walker County Sheriff’s Department. He was the former owner and operator of M&J Dry Cleaners in Chickamauga, former head of security at Lake Winnepesaukah and bus driver for Catoosa County Schools for several years. Tom was also a former employee of W.L. Wilson & Sons Funeral Home and was currently working for Academy Sports in Gadsden, AL. He was a horse farrier and an accomplished blacksmith. He enjoyed riding motorcycles and deer hunting. He devoted a lot of time working with the youth and men’s group at Shiloh Baptist Church. But what he enjoyed the most and was the proudest of was his two sons: Matthew and Joseph. Along with his parents, he is preceded in death by his brother: John Kennedy. Tom is survived by his sons: Matthew (Stephanie) Kennedy of Chickamauga, GA, Joseph (Mili) Kennedy of Nashville, TN, their mother: Sheila Grider of Chattanooga, TN, brother: Jim (Anita) Kennedy of Southside, AL, sister-in-law: Sally Kennedy of Huntsville, AL, granddaughters: Rheagan Darsi and Charlotte Dianne Kennedy of Chickamauga, GA, several nieces and nephews. The family will receive friends Sunday from 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm and Monday at the funeral home. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am –

Monday – October 7, 2019 in the chapel. Entombment will follow at Calvary Gardens – Mausoleum in Fort Oglethorpe, GA. Arrangements by Wilson Funeral Homes – Chickamauga, Georgia.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Gardens Cemetery & Mausoleum

2200 South Cedar Lane
Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30742
(706) 866-5555

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **6**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wilson Funeral Homes - Chickamauga Chapel
215 Lee Ave.
P.O. Box 370
Chickamauga, GA 30707
(706) 375-2161
bo@wilsonfuneralhome.com
<https://www.wilsonfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

OCT **7**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wilson Funeral Homes - Chickamauga Chapel
215 Lee Ave.
P.O. Box 370
Chickamauga, GA 30707
(706) 375-2161
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Tribute Wall

PS

“ I worked with Tom many years at Walker County. He was a joy to work with. He will be missed.

Phyllis Spain - October 07, 2019 at 10:32 PM



“ Tom was a great man, I only knew him for a few years when i worked under him at lake winnie out in the parking lot. He was only my 2nd boss ever, he liked me a lot & always said kind things about me & my abilities which gave me a boost in confidence i was sad to hear when he left Lw & now even sadder to hear of his passing he will be missed by all who were lucky enough to know him

Patrick Hayes - October 07, 2019 at 07:29 PM

CT

“ Clydeen Tomanio lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joseph Thomas Kennedy Jr.



Clydeen Tomanio - October 07, 2019 at 05:24 PM

RB

“ Roger and I thought a lot of Tom. He was my farrier for many years and a co-worker of Roger's. He'll be missed.



Roger & Karen Bradley - October 07, 2019 at 02:41 PM

SW

“ Steve Wilson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joseph Thomas Kennedy Jr.



Steve Wilson - October 07, 2019 at 02:13 PM

DF

“ Damon Francella lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joseph Thomas Kennedy Jr.



Damon Francella - October 07, 2019 at 05:50 AM

ML

“ Tom was one a kind. He was a man that everyone truly loved, Im not sure if Tom ever realized just how many lives he's touched along his journey. He was a man fully of knowledge, inspiration, and love. He enriched mine and made me a better man. I was blessed to call this man my friend. He will be missed !

marlon lancaster - October 06, 2019 at 08:47 PM

TG

Tom was one of the kindest people I have ever met in my life he always met you with a smile. I had the pleasure of working with him for a year at Academy I truly appreciate all the knowledge of hunting that he shared with me and he seemed so proud when I showed him the first deer I shot thanks to his tips and advice. He was a wonderful friend and was loved by so many people. I loved you Mr. Tom , see you again in Heaven. Your friend Torri.

Torri Gossett - October 06, 2019 at 09:51 PM

FG

There will never be another Tom Kennedy. Kindest and most generous person I've ever known. Very precious to me and my family. We love you "Mr. Tom"! RIP brother.

Fred Gunn - October 07, 2019 at 05:11 AM



Tom was a good honest man. I worked with him at Academy in Gadsden, Alabama. I never heard Tom speak bad of anyone, he was just a good ole country boy. I was saddened to hear of his passing. Rest now , my friend.

Randall Underwood - October 07, 2019 at 11:41 PM

TR

“ *The Russells lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joseph Thomas Kennedy Jr.*



The Russells - October 06, 2019 at 08:12 PM

JT

“ *Tom was a great friend and mentor. I had the pleasure of working along side him at Lake Winnie for 3 years and learned the art of security allowing me to follow in his footsteps when he retired. He will truly be missed.*

Joe Tusa - October 06, 2019 at 06:58 PM

TM

“ *Tom was qui k with a smile! I worked with him as a bus driver, his compassion and disposition always stood out. Prayers for his family.*

Trey Montgomery - October 05, 2019 at 06:39 PM

RW

“ I had the pleasure of working closely with this man at Academy Sports for almost 2 years. He was such a sweet wonderful true friend who I will dearly miss. He always made me smile, he made Academy a better place to work, he always had a smile on his face. This world not Academy will be the same. We had an inside joke where I called him “papa” but truth be told, he was like a papa to me. We shared stories, laughed and even shared a few tears together. Fly high and rest easy my dearest friend...Until we meet again!



ronna watts - October 05, 2019 at 04:55 PM

JD

“ This man was one of the best men I ever meet!! I worked with him at Academy Sports and Outdoors for a few years. He was kind loving and cared about everyone. He will be missed by so many!! I loved you Tom.. Janice Denney

Janice Denney - October 05, 2019 at 03:43 PM