



Mr. Thomas Addison Drayton

May 29, 1948 - July 8, 2023

It is with deep sorrow that Mrs. Ami Matthews Drayton and her family announce the death of her beloved husband of 13 years, Mr. Thomas Addison Drayton, 75.

Mr. Drayton entered into rest on Saturday, July 8, 2023. The Directors of Hancock-Elmore-Hill Funeral Home are caring for the family.

A funeral service to honor his life will be held at 11 o'clock on Wednesday, July 12, 2023, in Bethlehem United Methodist Church, with The Rev. Denise Seymour and The Rev. Olion Kirkland officiating. Burial with military honors will follow in Bethlehem United Methodist Church Cemetery, 110 Pinchum Sly Road, Bishopville, SC. The family will receive friends from 5:00 until 8:00 pm on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at Hancock-Elmore-Hill Funeral Home and other times at the home, 3945 Beckford Street, Florence, SC 29501.

Memorials may be made in his honor to Bethlehem United Methodist Church Cemetery Fund, PO Box 167, Bishopville, SC 29010.

Mr. Drayton was born in Bishopville, SC, on May 29, 1948. He was the son of the late Edward R. Drayton, Jr. and the late Agness Ross Graham Drayton.

Tom graduated from Bishopville High School in 1966. He attended Wingate

College and the University of Georgia. In 1968, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and served in Vietnam from December 1968 until December 1969. His company was involved in numerous operations in Vietnam.

In 1970, he returned to the family business, where he was president from 1981 until 2019. He was president of the SC Nurseryman Association in 1985 and was given the honor of being a SCNLA Fellow. He was also Lt. Governor and Governor of the American Nursery and Landscape Association and was the 1989 Nurseryman of the Year.

Tom served on the Bishopville City Council from 1975 until 1983. He was also Mayor of Bishopville from 1983 until 1991. He was a member of the SC Highway Commission from 1991 until 1994 and was vice chairman. He was also Vice Chairman of the Santee Council of Governments and was honored by the Lee County Chamber of Commerce as the Business Person of the Year in 2006.

He was a lifetime member of Bethlehem United Methodist Church. He served his church as a Sunday School teacher and held numerous positions on the church board as well as being in charge of the cemetery and Chairman of the Board of Trustees. He loved his church, and he was devoted to the upkeep of the Bethlehem Cemetery.

Tom was a person that believed in his community and his favorite saying was: "It's not what you take from a community, It's what you give back." Tom supported and gave to many organizations and people who needed help.

He was a life member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was a member of IPTAY for several years. He loved his Clemson Tigers and enjoyed going to the games.

He is survived by his loving wife, Ami Mathews Drayton; children, Thomas Scott Drayton (Rebecca), Jonathan Wesley Drayton (Allison), Chris Borowski (Ashley Witt), Caroline Grantham (Hal), Cassidy Borowski (Cody Phillips); brother, Edward R. Drayton III (Linda), sister-in-law Frances R. Drayton; grandchildren, Thomas Glenn Drayton, Ella Brooke Drayton, Collins Wesley Drayton, Harper Addison Drayton, Isabella Grace Grantham; numerous nieces and nephews., He was also anticipating the arrival of granddaughter, Isla Kate Grantham.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Marion Graham Drayton; paternal grandparents, Edward R Drayton, Sr. and Gertrude A. Drayton; maternal grandparents, John M. Graham and Mai Eloise B. Graham.

Cemetery Details

Bethlehem Cemetery

110 Pinchum Sly Rd.
Bishopville, SC

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 11. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Hancock-Elmore-Hill Funeral Home
200 West Church Street
Bishopville, SC 29010

Funeral Service

JUL 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethlehem United Methodist Church
115 W. Church Street
Bishopville, SC 29010

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Thomas Addison Drayton*

October 08, 2023 at 04:16 PM



“ *Scott, we send our sincere condolences on the passing of your father. We will keep your family in our prayers to the Lord Jesus Christ for peace during this time. With deep sympathy, Randal and Leslee Dosier*

Leslee Dosier - July 13, 2023 at 02:07 PM



“ *I WORKED AT CITY HALL DURING TOM'S SERVICE AS MAYOR AND HE WAS VERY NICE AND FRIENDLY. MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS TO THE FAMILY.*

TERRY WATFORD - July 12, 2023 at 08:30 PM



“ *Retta and Hugh Tindal*



hugh tindal - July 12, 2023 at 09:03 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Thomas Addison Drayton.*



July 10, 2023 at 08:21 PM



“ *Tom was a good friend for many, many years. May he rest in peace.*



Moye Harrison - July 10, 2023 at 06:33 PM



“ *Ami and Family, I am so very sorry for your loss of Tom. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers during this time. May wonderful memories surround you as you gather together. Even at this tie way you make new memories to hold dear in the days to come. May He hold out close and surround you with Is peace and strength.*
April Johnstonp

Rhonda A Johnston - July 10, 2023 at 05:52 PM



“ *Catherine Brown lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Addison Drayton*



Catherine Brown - July 10, 2023 at 03:53 PM

RT

“ So very sorry. Tom was a Good friend of my family

Rick Traub - July 10, 2023 at 03:07 PM

SB

“ Stan And Myra Brown lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Addison Drayton



Stan and Myra Brown - July 10, 2023 at 12:54 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Thomas Addison Drayton.



July 10, 2023 at 11:38 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mr. Thomas Addison Drayton.



July 10, 2023 at 10:26 AM

KF

“ Kevin Cox and Kim Shirley and Family purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Mr. Thomas Addison Drayton.



Kevin Cox and Kim Shirley and Family - July 10, 2023 at 10:08 AM

AA

“ Archie And Kay Amerson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Addison Drayton



Archie and Kay Amerson - July 10, 2023 at 09:58 AM

NT

“ Nancy Thornton lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Addison Drayton



Nancy Thornton - July 10, 2023 at 09:55 AM

NL

“ Nancy Laney Lindsay lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Addison Drayton



Nancy Laney Lindsay - July 10, 2023 at 06:27 AM

MB

“ *Matt And Betsy Bramlett lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Addison Drayton*



Matt and Betsy Bramlett - July 09, 2023 at 10:05 PM

CM

“ *Clara McElveen lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Addison Drayton*



Clara McElveen - July 09, 2023 at 08:26 PM

CM

Ami and family, so sorry to hear of the death of your love one. May God give each of you comfort, strength and peace in the day ahead. God Bless each of you. Clara McElveen

Clara McElveen - July 09, 2023 at 08:25 PM

CM

Days!

Clara McElveen - July 09, 2023 at 08:28 PM

RS

“ *Rebecca Stoudenmire lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Addison Drayton*



Rebecca Stoudenmire - July 09, 2023 at 07:46 PM

AH

“ *Annette Logan Hopkins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Addison Drayton*



Annette Logan Hopkins - July 09, 2023 at 06:37 PM

RM

“ *Our thoughts and prayers go to the family. Bob and Becky (Grantham) McWatty*

Robert C Mcwatty - July 09, 2023 at 06:08 PM

RC

“ *Rebecca Ann Crichton lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Addison Drayton*



Rebecca Ann Crichton - July 09, 2023 at 05:49 PM

RC

I will always remember Tom's laugh.

Rebecca Ann Crichton - July 09, 2023 at 05:48 PM