



Thomas J. Pickard

August 21, 1935 - December 10, 2021

Thomas Junior Pickard of Stratford, Oklahoma was born August 21, 1935 in Muskogee, Oklahoma to William and Bessie Jane (Osborn) Pickard . He passed away in Ada, Oklahoma December 10, 2021 with his family by his side at the age of 86 years 3 months and 19 days. He grew up in Davis, Oklahoma where his mom and dad owned Picks Hot Tamales and graduated from Davis High with the class of 1954. He went to work at Bahner Funeral Home at the young age of 17. Under the direction of Cecil and Jane Bahner he found his life's calling. They helped him get started in the funeral business and he moved to Dallas where he went to the Dallas Institute of Funeral Directors and Embalmers. He joined the U.S. Army and worked for the funeral home. Moving to Stratford in the 1960s he bought what is now DeArman/Pickard funeral home, he ran 2 ambulances, until 1977, and then donated the ambulance to the town of Stratford. He married Vicki Morris on September 24, 1973 in Las Vegas, Nevada and they blended their family and worked together in the funeral business for the next 48 years, buying two more funeral homes. Tom was a member of the First Baptist Church, member of the Oklahoma State Funeral Directors, where he served on the state board for 30 years, Stratford Masons, and Stratford American Legion post 119. He served 36 years in the U.S. Army National Guard and Reserves. Eventually taking command of the 4003rd U.S. Army Garrison unit in Midwest City, retiring as a full Bird Colonel. He loved Stratford and was active in all aspects of this little community. He started the football program in 1967, served on the school

board for 32 years while there bought the land for the football field and he and Delbert Knight bought all the metal for the light poles and welded them in Delbert's barn. Many other men helped in this project. They still stand today. During his time on the Stratford City Council he and Steve Phillips started writing for grants and got Governor David Hall to help get the 4 lane highway through Stratford. He was always a man of vision for the future. He was instrumental in getting the new high school, new auditorium, Senior Citizens, also he was Fire Chief for several years. Tom and his family rode with the Stratford Round Up club, serving as it's president several years. Tom loved to play golf, travel, and go snow skiing with his family and showing them how to ski without lessons while crashing into the ski rack. Do as I say, not as I do was his motto.

Preceded by; his parents, one baby daughter Tara and step son Rodney Wood, son in law Gary Brown.

Survived by: his wife Vicki Pickard of the home in Stratford children; Angie Brown of Oklahoma City, OK.

Denise Clary & husband Kent of Lindsay, Oklahoma; Tomi Tice & husband Shannon of Stratford, OK. Todd Smith & wife Kristi of Coalgate, Ok.

Grandchildren; Lindsey Moody, Zach & Val Clary, Kelsey & Kenny Eldridge, Emry & Endy Wood, Avry & Caitlin Wood, Morgan & Dayton Phillips, Reagan & Brandon Stokes, Katy Tice & Dale Rodgers, Brette Smith & Nick Southerlend, and Tanner Smith. 8 great-grandchildren and 2 on the way.

Sister; Deloris Ulrich of Muskogee, OK.

Pallbearers; Grandsons; Zach Clary, Kenny Eldridge, Avry Wood, Tanner Smith, Brandon Stokes and Dayton Phillips.

Visitation will be Monday December 13, 2021 from 4 to 7 at DeArman Pickard Chapel Stratford, Oklahoma.

Services' 1:00 PM Tuesday December 14, 2021 at the Stratford high School auditorium; Officiating Rev. Keith Stevens and Danny Hilliard. Interment will be

in McGee cemetery Stratford, Oklahoma.

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas J. Pickard*

October 05, 2023 at 07:47 PM



“ *Vickie, Denise and Angie,*

May God grant you all peace and comfort at this time. Tom was a good and witty man who we enjoyed very much during our years at the bowling alley. Keith really thought a lot of Tom. God bless you all!

Marilyn Webster - December 18, 2021 at 09:12 PM

SF

“ This is the first posting I have put on the Stratford Obituaries; but knew in this case I must.

The Colonel, Tom Pickard was an Officer, a Gentleman and one of the most quintessential people I have ever had the privilege to know. When my brother Stanley was killed in a car wreck in 1977; again when my Father, Leslie Foster – whom served with Tom on the Stratford Board of Education several years; died in 1996; Tom was there to guide and comfort the family in a way only he could do. Foster family funerals are not known to be quiet and sometimes undignified by their antics. Tom would step in calming situations very quickly and professionally.

I wish I could be there to hear Tom's final Taps played to be able to salute him for the person he was:

*Day is done, Gone the sun,
From the lake, From the hill,
From the sky.
All is well, Safely rest,
God is nigh.*

To Vicki and the Family, you are in my thoughts and prayers. Know that Tom's physical being is no longer with you; however, he will always be with you in Spirit.

To Tom; Rest in Eternal Peace Good Sir, in the arms of our Savior, Jesus the Christ until the day comes that we are all united within the Gates of Heaven.

Stephen Foster - December 13, 2021 at 09:26 PM

GM

“ The town of Stratford has lost a great man. You will be missed Tom.

Gloria Moore - December 13, 2021 at 07:39 PM

LM

“ Tom was the best dancing partner. I always enjoyed dancing with him and his patience with me. I am remembering New Year's Eve pajama get together at Tim and Vickie's. Fun times snacking and playing pool in the Elvis room. Lol
Boomer Sooner Tom, you will be missed by all.

Liz McClure - December 13, 2021 at 07:25 AM

AF

“ Prayers for the family. May the Lord comfort you during this time.

Amanda (Sims) Faulkenberry - December 13, 2021 at 02:29 AM

LB

“ Lorene Barnett lit a candle in memory of
Thomas J. Pickard



Lorene Barnett - December 13, 2021 at 01:02 AM

DH

“ Angie and Denise, I'm so sorry that you have lost your father. I never met him, but from his obituary, I see that he was a great man. I pray that God will give you comfort during this sad time. I remember you both with fond memories, and I still love you both.
Donna Hays

Donna Hays - December 12, 2021 at 10:44 PM

YB

“ Our sincere sympathy goes out to the Pickard family. Tom was truly one of a kind. He supported the town of Stratford in every possible way. He is now at peace.

Chris & Yevon Bolles

Yevon Bolles - December 12, 2021 at 09:35 PM

JM

“ My deepest condolences to Vicki & Tom’s family. Tom was such a good man & filled all of his many life roles to the utmost. He was on the school board during my years at Stratford. Tom was an advocate for all things school & our science program. We went from a hesitant Hello, Mr. Pickard to being so glad to see each other with a handshake & hug. Men like Tom are a rare breed & he will be deeply missed.



Juanita Matthews - December 12, 2021 at 01:05 PM

KD

“ There are so many memories that my family has of Tom. We were in the round up club, the city council, the Masons, the city clubs to help make everything happen, church of course, but the last would have been helping us all get through the final services of our family. May God bless all of his family and I pray we’re all gonna have a great reunion in heaven someday. I love you Vickie and all of your family.

Kay Welch Dustin

Kay Dustin - December 12, 2021 at 10:04 AM

KH

“ Prayers for you and your family Vicky. Kent and Shari Harris



Kent Harris - December 11, 2021 at 02:08 PM

SD

“ Remembering Tom and I being at mortuary school together in Dallas, serving in the US Army Reserves together and touching each others lives over the years. Tom will be missed ... a valued member of the funeral profession ... My condolences to his family.



Steve Douglas - December 11, 2021 at 02:05 PM