



## Thomas Clayton "Tom" Craven

October 25, 1936 - September 25, 2022

Thomas (Tom) Clayton Craven- passed away on September 25, 2022, at age 85 years

He was born on October 25, 1936, in Thomasville, North Carolina and he grew up in Carthage, North Carolina. He was the eldest son in a family of eight children. He graduated Farm Life High School and moved to Nashville to continue his education at Nashville Auto Diesel College. He had a lifelong passion for automobiles. He had no idea that his decision to pursue this field of study would lead him to the love of his life and make Nashville his lifelong home.

After graduating from NADC in 1957, he began a 20-year career with the Coca-Cola Bottling Company that began with him working on trucks in the body shop. After holding several positions of progressive responsibility, he was promoted to Production Manager over the bottling operation. During his time in this role, he was named Production Manager of the Year in 1968. While this was fulfilling work, his dream was to own a collision repair business. In 1976 he decided to make that dream come true. He started Craven's Body Shop in Inglewood while he was still working at Coca-Cola. His wife, Helen had quickly learned how to run a body shop and she did the day-to-day work for several months until Tom was able to leave his job. In 1977, he began working at the business full time and together they built a business that served the community for nearly 40 years. He worked tirelessly to serve customers with impeccable attention to detail and genuine pride in his work. It didn't

matter if it was a Cadillac or a Cavalier, he cared about the customer above all else. Over the years, he shared his knowledge and skills with many of his children and associates, several have continued to succeed in the industry due to what they learned from Tom.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Eston Egbert Craven and Flora Margaret McDuffie Craven, and his sister, Dolly Craven Taylor.

He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Helen Glenn Craven, and his children Liane (Jerry) McConnell, Suzanne Allen, Chris (Jody) Craven and Kim (Frank) Baker and grandchildren, Jeremy (Jessica) McConnell, Blake (Catherine) McConnell, Blaire (Kelly) Allen, Bradley (Amber) Allen, Brodie (Shanna) Allen, Brett (Bailey) Allen, Colbie (Candace) Craven, Hailey (Alex) Raynor, Sonny (Sarah) Baker, Lonnie Baker, Billy (James) Meadows, Sierra (Dylan) Hunt, Lucas Baker, Lainey Baker, Skylr Baker, Sophia Baker; and 19 great grandchildren. He is also survived by his siblings, Dorothy (Aubrey) Key, Egbert (Nancy) Craven, Richard (Sandra) Craven, Gene (Loretta) Craven, Brenda Craven, and Linda (Tony) Matthews.

A Celebration of Life is planned on October 8th, 2022, 2-4 pm at Phillip Robinson Funeral, 2707 Gallatin Pike, Nashville, Tennessee 37216

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, [alz.org](http://alz.org).

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

OCT 8. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Phillips-Robinson Funeral Home - Nashville Chapel

2707 Gallatin Pike

Nashville, TN 37216

(615) 262-3312

[info@phillipsrobinson.com](mailto:info@phillipsrobinson.com)

<https://www.phillipsrobinson.com/>

# Tribute Wall

CA

“ Rest in peace Mr. Craven, I thank you for all the things you taught me and the fun we had working together. You have no idea the impact you made in my life. I wish I could have been at your funeral but I didn't even know and we lost touch when I moved from Davidson back to coffee county. Mrs Helen I'm sorry for your lose may the Lord most high be with you

Chad n Brittany Akers - June 01, 2023 at 09:48 AM



“ Thomas Clayton "Tom" Craven

October 14, 2022 at 08:02 PM

CC

“ Camping World Family Randall Chambers purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Thomas Clayton "Tom" Craven.



Camping World Family Randall Chambers - October 07, 2022 at 02:45 PM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Thomas Clayton "Tom" Craven.



October 07, 2022 at 12:48 PM



“ 161 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



**Phillips-Robinson Funeral Home** - October 07, 2022 at 12:35 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket* was purchased for the family of Thomas Clayton "Tom" Craven.



October 07, 2022 at 08:09 AM



“ *Serene Retreat* was purchased for the family of Thomas Clayton "Tom" Craven.



October 06, 2022 at 08:54 AM

GT

“ Mom and Dad, Carroll and Frances Tanley, were both neighbors and friends to both Helen and Tommy for over 50 years. Mom said that " Tommy was always ready to lend a helping hand " and he will be deeply missed by Family, Friends, and so many others.  
Blessings on his Family Respectfully  
George & Cher Tanley Costa Rica

George Tanley - October 03, 2022 at 04:38 PM



“ "Sending You an Angel" Statue to Express Sympathy for Funeral Or Memorial was purchased for the family of Thomas Clayton "Tom" Craven.



October 02, 2022 at 12:59 PM

WG

“ Wanda Whitaker Garner lit a candle in memory of Thomas Clayton "Tom" Craven



Wanda Whitaker Garner - October 01, 2022 at 04:58 PM

WG

May God cradle you in His arms of love.  
Praying for you all!

Wanda Whitaker Garner - October 01, 2022 at 05:00 PM

BG

Holding the family up in prayer. Liane we are thinking of you, Jerry and the kids during this time.

Brenda Gray - October 02, 2022 at 08:40 PM

RT

“ I have lots of memories of Tommy, as a neighbor growing up next to him and the family, also several summers working for him at the Coca-Cola bottling company on Church Street downtown. Prays go out to Helen and the children.

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**Rick Tanley** - October 01, 2022 at 08:21 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Thomas Clayton "Tom" Craven.



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September 30, 2022 at 09:16 AM

NT

“ Nationwide P&C Quality Assurance Team purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Thomas Clayton "Tom" Craven.



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**Nationwide P&C Quality Assurance Team** - September 30, 2022 at 08:45 AM