



Thomas Ray Henderson

October 5, 1934 - January 26, 2022

Thomas Ray Henderson, of Laurel, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2022, at his home. He was 87 years old.

A visitation will take place from 1 to 2 p.m. on Saturday at Highland Baptist Church in Laurel. A funeral service will follow at the church, with burial to occur immediately afterward in Hickory Grove Cemetery.

The men's Sunday school class will serve as pallbearers.

A Jones County native, Mr. Henderson was born Oct. 5, 1934, the oldest child of Ray and Pearl Henderson. He grew up attending West Laurel Baptist Church. After graduating from George S. Gardiner High School in 1952, he enrolled at Jones County Junior College in Ellisville, hitchhiking back and forth to classes from his home in Laurel. He eventually went to Mississippi State University, where he earned a degree in accounting.

At some point during those years of schooling, Mr. Henderson met his sister's boyfriend's sister. Her name was Mildred Blackwell, of Laurel. They married on Oct. 1, 1955, and reached Biloxi, to honeymoon, via a borrowed car. It was a union that lasted more than 66 years.

In 1958, Mr. Henderson graduated from MSU. His first job was with U.S. Steel

in Birmingham, where he worked in an office filled, he always lamented, with University of Alabama graduates. In 1965, the corporation moved him to its headquarters in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. While there, the Hendersons—faithful Christians all of their lives—helped one of that city’s first Baptist churches open its doors. Soon, though, the climate just proved too cold for the Southerners, and they moved their growing family home.

In 1968, Mr. Henderson began work as a CPA in downtown Laurel. His family attended Wildwood Baptist Church and later, after moving to north Laurel, they attended Highland Baptist Church. In addition to devoted service to his church, where he served as a longtime deacon and taught Sunday school classes, he was a member of the Laurel Optimist Club and the Mississippi National Guard. He always supported Dixie Boys baseball.

More than anything, Mr. Henderson enjoyed spending time with his family, especially with everyone gathered around a dinner table. He enjoyed all food but had, in particular, something of a sweet tooth, leading one of his family members to remark: “Banana pudding is being served in Heaven tonight.” They added: “Pecan pie, too.”

In addition to his parents, Mr. Henderson was preceded in death by a brother, Freddie Henderson.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Mildred B. Henderson; one sister, Anna H. Landrum; four children, T.J. (Bud) Browning, Charlene Henderson, Delene (Ricky) Adams, and Allen Henderson; four grandchildren, Richard (Danielle) Adams, Bryan (Heather) Adams, William (Joy) Browning, and Ann (Josh) Manning; and eight great-grandchildren (Avery, Isabella, Archer, Carter, Amelia, Allie, Miles and Luca).

To sign the online guest book, visit www.memorychapellaurel.com.

Cemetery Details

Hickory Grove Cemetery

Intersection of 15th Street and Old Bay
Springs Rd
Laurel, MS 39440

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 29. 1:00 PM (CT)

Highland Baptist Church
2513 N 7th Avenue
Laurel, MS 39440

Service

JAN 29. 2:00 PM (CT)

Highland Baptist Church
2513 N 7th Avenue
Laurel, MS 39440

Tribute Wall

LC

“ I worked at Smith County Bank in Taylorsville Tom was our accountant for a period of time. He was always very helpful and personable. I enjoyed working with him. I'm so sorry for your loss.

Lynnette Craft - March 04, 2022 at 11:48 PM

RW

“ Thoughts and prayers for the family during this time. Mr. Tom and my Dad spent a lot of time at Dixie Boys together. I always knew, Mr. Tom was a man of character and integrity. There was never a doubt he would do the right thing. I know he will be missed by those who loved him.

Raymond Walters - February 02, 2022 at 12:09 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Ray Henderson.



January 30, 2022 at 04:50 PM

WW

“ We have known Tom for a long time and consider him a fantastic friend. I have fond memories of Tom and I unloading Christmas trees from a boxcar and selling the trees to fund a youth baseball program in Laurel and Jones County.

In his office when we met with him about business and personal accounting we could count on his being very courteous and kind to people who came to him for accounting services. This same spirit was also evident in the people in the office who worked with him.

Often our discussions with Tom were about the Christian faith and its positive effects on many people.

We will miss having a fantastic man like Tom who was a friend, very able accountant confidant and fellow Christian.

We and our family have many fond memories of Tom and send our condolences to his family and we grieve with them.

Wayne Walters - January 29, 2022 at 03:06 PM

EW

“ My Heart is broken. We came to Laurel because there was a job advertisement in the paper and my husband, Eric Shawver, applied for it. That was in 1978 and we have remained in Laurel every since, with Tom doing my Tax return every year after Eric died. Tom and Mildred and family were truly family to me. He was such a precious person and loved the Lord. I am going to miss him. Eve Webb

Eve W Webb - January 29, 2022 at 01:05 PM

JF

“ I remember going to Uncle Tommy’s house with all the family for Christmas or we would all be at Grandmother’s (Anna) for Easter. Some great memories when we were younger that I still talk about today. Uncle Tommy was just a wonderful person and will be missed by so many.



Jessica Landrum Finley - January 29, 2022 at 12:10 PM

AW

“ Tom was our company's CPA. Very fine gentleman. So sorry for your loss. Praying for God's peace and comfort during these days.

Amy Busby Williams - January 29, 2022 at 11:52 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Thomas Ray Henderson.



January 29, 2022 at 10:17 AM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Thomas Ray Henderson.



January 29, 2022 at 08:12 AM