



## Mr. Thomas Jesse Bethea III

May 12, 1933 - January 25, 2019

Mr. Thomas Jesse Bethea, III died peacefully on Friday, January 25th, 2019. Born in Charlotte, NC, he was a son of the late Thomas Jesse Bethea, Jr. and Flora Bethea O'Neill. He was married to Charlotte Hardee Bethea, also of Charlotte, NC from December 31, 1951 to May 5, 1993. Tom married Patricia Edwards Bethea on August 23, 1993.

Tom graduated from Central High School in Charlotte, NC, in the class of 1951. He served in the U.S. Air Force 1951-1955 while stationed in Biloxi, Mississippi and Mobile, Alabama. After leaving the Air Force, Tom took his young wife and daughter to Clemson, SC where he obtained a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering from Clemson A&M College in 1958. While there, he welcomed 2 more children. He first worked for Martin-Marietta in Orlando, Florida. After brief employment in Charlotte, NC, Tom worked for Chrysler Corporation, Huntsville, Alabama on the design of the hydraulic control system of the Saturn V. Due to concerns about changing market demands, he obtained an MS in Mechanical Engineering from Clemson University. Upon graduation, Tom was employed by Celanese Corporation in Rock Hill, SC from 1965 to 1971. Tom left Celanese and started his own company, Bethea Engineering, Inc. doing consulting work for many clients in Rock Hill and other South Carolina areas. In 1978 Tom bought the ancestral Bethea farmhouse in McColl, South Carolina. Thus began his passion to renovate and restore the old home. The Bethea farmhouse is now owned by his eldest daughter Cynthia and remains a family treasure. Tom and Patty moved to Lamar, SC.

They bought a sailboat and gave this new passion a try. Tom has been a resident of Oakhaven Nursing Home in Darlington, SC for the past 3 years where he was well cared for and loved by many of the staff.

Surviving are his wife, Patricia E. Bethea of Lamar, SC; daughters, Prof. Cynthia L. Bethea (Tom Dagostino) of Portland, OR, Diane Bethea Boeger (Bruce C.) of Overland Park, KS; son, David Jesse Bethea (Carolyn D.) of Greenville, SC; brother, William David Bethea (Gloria) of Charlotte, NC; grandchildren, Sarah Cynthia Bethea, Rachel Boeger Leung (Dave), Rebecca Boeger Morris (Steven), Hannah Hultman Boeger, Gabriella Hope Boeger, Tristram Jesse Bethea (Mellany); great-grandsons, Jackson Leung, Charlie Leung, Jacob Morris, Evan Bethea, Tyler Bethea.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Charlotte Hardee Bethea; granddaughter, Ansley Jean Bethea.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, May 12th, 2019 (Tom's 86th Birthday) at the Bethea Family Farmhouse 3003 Academy Road, McColl, SC 29570; burial will take place that same day in the family cemetery at the Academy/Adamsville Crossroads.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Brown - Pennington - Atkins Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Thomas Jesse Bethea III*

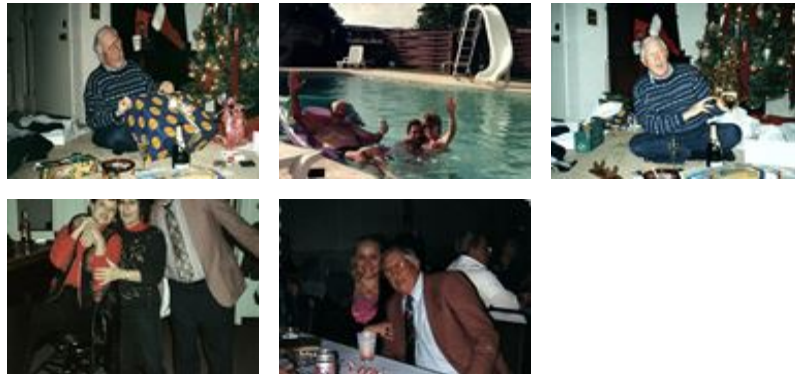


---

**Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home** - May 11, 2019 at 08:37 AM



“ *107 files added to the album LifeTributes*



---

**Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home** - May 10, 2019 at 10:32 AM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



---

**Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home** - February 01, 2019 at 10:21 PM



“ *Judy Walters lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Jesse Bethea III*



---

**Judy Walters** - January 28, 2019 at 01:52 AM