



# Tommy Dorsey Caldwell

MAY 19, 1940 - AUG 3, 2019



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## **Tommy Dorsey Caldwell**

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**T**ommy D. Caldwell, age 79, of Cornelius, passed away on August 3, 2019, at Northlake House from complications of Parkinson's disease. Born on May 19, 1940 in Catawba County, he was the son of the late Dorsey and Helen Caldwell. He grew up on a farm with strong Christian values and attended Mt. Ruhama Baptist Church. Tom was a member of Bethel Presbyterian Church, Cornelius, NC since November, 1990, and recently attended First Baptist Church of Cornelius.

Following graduation from Bandy's High School, Tom attended Elon College and Lenoir-Rhyne College, followed by his dedicated service as Sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserves from 1963 to 1969. Tom's solid work ethic learned on the farm carried him into a successful 40-year career in the construction industry in the areas of Training and Development since 1966 retiring in 2005 as Vice-President of Workforce Development for Carolinas Associated General Contractors, a construction trade association in North and South Carolina. Tom was always remembered by those whose lives he touched in the construction industry. He was passionate about training the future workforce of the industry while employed by AGC. Following his retirement, Tom formed his own company, Caldwell Workforce Development Associates, Inc. where he continued his long-time service to the industry offering training support and assisting Tansey and Associates by conducting NCCER Craft Training and Assessment Audits. A scholarship is established in Tom's name with the AGC Education and Research Foundation and awarded to students pursuing careers in the industry.

Tom was honored with many awards during his long career including the Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award in 2001, NC's highest honor—a prestigious award presented by Gov. James B. Hunt to individuals who have a proven record of service to the state of North Carolina. Tom was a 50-year member of The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina and a long-time member of Oasis Shriners.

Survivors include Judy, his devoted and loving wife of 36 years; his son, Trent of Maiden, NC, brother, Steve of Newton, NC, sister, Susan Elmore and her husband, Erick, sister-in-law, Carolyn



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Hildreth and her husband, Mike; and many nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends. Tom was predeceased by his brother, Bill and sister-in-law, Wilma.

Tom enjoyed boating, working in his yard, helping others with “home” repairs, traveling, collecting wildlife art, watching Westerns, and spending time at his second home in Apollo Beach, Florida. Tom fulfilled a life-time dream by building his own home in 1987—a home he thoroughly enjoyed. Recently, Tom enjoyed Rock Steady Boxing with Coach J. T. Smith. The class was specifically to “fight back against Parkinson’s” where Tom made many friends and enjoyed his classes.

A service honoring God for Tom’s life will be held at the Chapel at James Funeral Home, 10520 Arahova Drive, Huntersville, NC at 2PM on Tuesday, August 6, 2019, followed by a private Masonic burial at Mt. Ruhama Baptist Church in Maiden, NC. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to Shriner’s Hospital for Children, 950 W. Faris Road, Greenville, SC 29605 or Holy Angels, P. O. Box 710, Belmont, NC 28012.

The family wishes to thank the entire staff of Northlake House and Hospice and Palliative Care Charlotte Region for their excellent care.

Arrangements are in the care of James Funeral Home, Huntersville, NC.



# Events


**Tommy Dorsey Caldwell**

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## Visitation

 **Tuesday**, August 6, 2019

 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM ET


 **James Funeral Home**  
10520 Arahova Dr, Huntersville NC 28078



## Funeral Service

 **Tuesday**, August 6, 2019

 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET

 **James Funeral Home**  
10520 Arahova Dr, Huntersville NC 28078





# Tribute Wall

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**Carma Vasquez** posted:

I coached Tom at Rock Steady. I thought he hated me because when I would approach him he would say 'oh You again...!', but then he would reach out for me when he needed help putting his gloves on or walking across the balance beam and he always came back for more. I enjoyed his stories of growing up on the farm and he talked about the house he built. I realized I had made a true friend when one day he came to class and brought me sausage from a freshly slaughtered pig...I was honored. I am grateful for my time with him and grateful to learn that he looked forward to coming to class. Judy, my condolences to you, and please know that you are always a part of our Rock Steady family.

August 6 at 5:03 PM



**Dave Simpson** posted:

Tommy did mighty good things for the construction industry, especially training, in the Carolinas. He will be missed greatly. Our thoughts & prayers are with Judy and their family and many friends. God bless your soul...

August 6 at 5:13 AM



**Emilie Benvegna** sent a Medium Dish Garden to the Caldwell family.



August 6 at 2:41 AM



**Eddie Keen** posted:

Judy, We enjoyed the times with you and Tommy, especially there in your home. He was a hoot! Eddie and Becky

August 5 at 3:37 PM



**Jane Putnam** posted:

So sorry to hear of Tom's death. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Jane Putnam.

August 5 at 10:23 AM



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**Ken** posted:

We were so saddened by the news of Tommy's passing. We recall boating, partying, and just having loads of laughs with you both. Tommy was funny, stubborn and loving all in one. We will miss him and the stories he shared and his time with us. Know you are in our thoughts and prayers. And if you need anything at all, don't hesitate to call us. Love, Ken & Nancy (Muggs)

August 5 at 7:15 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Caldwell family.



August 5 at 5:57 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the Caldwell family.



August 4 at 3:02 PM



MM

**Mary Ellen Mauney** posted:

Judy We were so sad to learn of Tom's death. Please know you and your entire family are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. In friendship Paul Mary Ellen and Christopher Mauney

August 4 at 11:14 AM

JJ

**J. Lewis Sigmon, Jr.** August 6 at 10:12 AM

Judy, Sondra and I are away from the area and cannot attend Tom's funeral. We regret that we did not know of his deteriorating condition. We actually had moved from Davidson in 2018 and lost contact with folks there. Please accept our condolences for his passing. He was a wonderful friend and classmate from Bandys High! He was blessed by having you as his spouse and companion. May he rest in peace and we look forward to seeing him on the other side. Sincerely, Lewis and Sondra Sigmon

EB

**Emilie Benvegna** August 6 at 2:31 AM

Judy and Trent, Our thoughts and prayers are with both of you. I'm still in disbelief that Tommy is no longer with us. My heart is heavy because I will not be able to attend his service today. Please know that so many wonderful memories flow when I think of the time I worked with Tommy, as well as spending time together after I left AGC. I'm so grateful to have known such an inspiring man. Jim, Emilie, Lexie, Anna and Auraleigh Benvegna

VP

**Virginia Price** August 5 at 7:42 PM

Judy, I met Tommy during a very stressful time in my life and he took me under his wing and taught me so very much. I loved him like a brother. When he talked about you, I could see the adoration in his eyes. You were the love of his life. He got so excited when he would find a special frog he thought you would like. He'd show me the pictures and his face would glow just thinking of giving it to you. Such a smart man at work as well. He organized "Career Days" and in school construction classes for the young and touched so many lives .... many that didn't realize the work that he did for them. What a great man!! I feel so honored to have known him! Ginny "Bigam" Price

AM

**Amy Moss-McCormick** August 5 at 9:21 AM

Thinking of you at this difficult time Judy. Prayers for you and the rest of the family. Amy Moss-McCormick

BW

**Brenda Wyatt** August 5 at 8:44 AM

Trent-Our thoughts & Prayers to you and the entire family. Biggest Hugs David & Brenda Wyatt

BB

**Beulah Brewer** August 4 at 6:41 PM

Judy so sorry to hear about Tom our prayers are with you and family

JS

**Jt Smith** August 4 at 2:57 PM



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Judy I am so thankful for the time I got to spend with Tom. He was a wonderful man. Everyone at the class will miss him, but we all know he is in a better place now. Please know we are here for you if you need us.



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Tommy by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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