



Thomas (Tommy) Bennett Story

January 12, 1965 - September 23, 2024

Thomas (Tommy) Bennett Story passed from this life to his heavenly home on Monday, September 23, 2024. He was born on January 12, 1965, to Mr. Bob C. Story of Durant, OK, and Mrs. Frankie Story (Ham) of Atoka, OK.

Tommy was born and raised in Durant, OK. He graduated from Durant High School in 1985, which he always considered one of his greatest achievements. He was so proud to call himself a Durant Lion. Over the years, he remained close to many of his classmates. This past year, they brought a class reunion to him since he could no longer attend. Their kindness throughout his journey will never be forgotten.

While in high school, Tommy was a member of the Glee Club and the Mixed Men/Women Choir. He was also a longtime member of the Cannonball Cloggers, performing at fall festivals and community events across Texoma. Performing and dancing were Tommy's greatest joys in life. Tommy studied Karate, played the piano, and participated in Special Olympics. He was also an Eagle Scout from Troop 618, First Baptist Church of Durant, OK. Additionally, he served as an honorary Lions Club member, where his father, Bob C. Story, has been actively involved for over 50 years.

Tommy was employed for many years at The Branding Iron restaurant in Durant, OK. Later, he was employed at People First Industries of Bryan

County. The First Baptist Church of Durant, OK, and his Sunday school class, the Singles Life Group, where Tommy was a member, always welcomed him with open arms. They supported him through many of his most difficult days, and our family will always be eternally grateful.

Tommy is preceded in death by his mother, Frankie Story Cornelison, and his stepfather, Ken Cornelison, with whom Tommy had a very special bond. He is also preceded in death by his paternal grandparents Robert Bennett and Rebekah Story, maternal grandparents Raymond and Alma (Susie) Miller, and two special uncles: Freddie Ham of Seabrook, TX, and Reverend Grady Eugene Lee of Denver, CO.

Tommy is survived by his father, Bob C. Story, with whom he resided at Featherstone Assisted Living in Durant. Bob was able to be with Tommy in his latter days, helping tremendously with his care and bringing comfort and love to his son and family.

Tommy is also survived by his brother Bobby Story and wife, Melissa; his brother Keith Story and wife, Stacey; his sister Lisa Story-Thomas, all of Durant; and his stepbrother John Cornelison and wife, Cindy, of North Carolina. He is survived by several nephews and nieces: Bradley Story and wife, Kayla, of Durant; Robert Story and wife, Kamwin, of Durant; Eric Story and wife, Avi, of Sherman, TX; Lhauren Story-Spann and husband, Matt, of Melissa, TX; Jake Cobb of Durant; Julie Story-Lillibridge and husband, Dillon, of Sherman, TX; Jackson Stuteville and wife, Audra Edwards, of Washington, DC; Zachary Thomas of Anna, TX; Courtney Reirdon of Durant; and Tyler Reirdon of Durant. He was blessed with a multitude of great-nephews and great-nieces, with whom he shared many joyful moments over the years. Tommy is also survived by a very special aunt and cousins: Aunt Royce Lee; Sheila and husband, Kip Thornton; and Janet Lee, all of Englewood, CO; Jeff and wife, Deidra, of Larkspur, CO, and Greg Lee and wife, Tonya, of Grand

Junction, CO.

The loss of Tommy leaves a huge void and an absence we will feel for a lifetime. The joy and laughter he brought to all of us will be missed immeasurably. His constant smile and caring nature are gone in an instant. Tommy was the personification of pure joy, with a heart of gold and a childlike demeanor we all adored. We know his Heavenly Father, his adoring mother, and many loved ones were waiting for his arrival, which brings us peace. Tommy has performed his final earthly dance!

A special thank you to the staff and caregivers at Featherstone Assisted Living in Durant. Without their care and compassion, this process would have been much more difficult.

A funeral service will be held on Monday, September 30, 2024, at 2:00 PM, officiated by our pastor and loving friend, Garry McNeill. Interment will follow at Highland Cemetery, Durant, Oklahoma. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Brown's Funeral Home. We extend heartfelt appreciation to their staff for their guidance during these difficult days.

Flowers are welcome and appreciated for the funeral or the family has requested donations in memory of Tommy Story be made to Southeastern Baptist Student Ministries and Building Fund, 124 W. Evergreen Street, Durant, OK 74701.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.brownsfuneralservice.com.

<https://www.tributeslides.com/tributes/show/T7MJYNKJ5HQM68>

Cemetery Details

Highland Cemetery

1620 Cemetery Rd
Durant, OK

Previous Events

Funeral Service

SEP 30. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church
124 W. Evergreen
Durant, OK

Tribute Wall



“ *Brown's Durant Funeral Service created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas (Tommy) Bennett Story*



Brown's Durant Funeral Service - September 30, 2024 at 09:22 AM

JL

“ Tommy, Uncle Tom, Thomas B, the slinky king

To know him, was to love him. If he knew you, he loved you.

I'm pretty sure he knew way more people than I will ever know and people knew Tom. I'm a teacher in Sherman and the connections I've made with some of my coworkers is so funny because they knew grandma and tom, way before I knew who they were.

I know I can speak for us nieces and nephews and say that we all had a special bond with Tom. He was a big part in our lives....and man did we drive him crazy haha but at the end of the day we'd always get that big smile and an I love you.

I remember being young and at grandmas house. We'd all love to go into Tommy's room because what can I say he always had the cool stuff. From slinky's to his cassette tapes, to any movie you could dream of. We'd go in and he'd immediately start pointing and saying no. So we'd do a little bribing and promise we'd put it all back. He was one of us kids, always down to listen to music and dance like no one was watching. Although he loved it when he was the center of attention. I remember being in elementary school and he'd come perform for the 2nd graders his clogging routines and those sequined vests. Man he sure rocked those!

Speaking of clogging, I would sometimes go to his clogging practices, mostly because it was followed by a la mesa trip (routines and consistency weekly), going to San Antonio several times to watch him get a standing ovation on the Arneson River Theater. And all the other festivals he'd perform in. They were always busy! I even think he got Eric clogging for a bit. Tommy was always up for a show and to be center stage!

He grabbed the microphone after our church Christmas program one day, he sang the little drummer boy. It lasted a good 15 minutes but man everyone loved it!! And he loved that they did!!

I could spend all day and talk about all the memories and stories but I've narrowed it down now to a few honorable mentions.

- 1. He always had a coffee or a super iced down coke in hand, with a splash of sprite*
- 2. When he needed more ice you'd get the cup shake or a point.*
- 3. Grandma was not only his mom but his very best friend. It was never just grandma or Tom, but always grandma and Tom*
- 4. He got more presents than anyone at Christmas*
- 5. His regular order at salitas back in the day was a child's burrito with queso and make the plate hot! It's for Tommy not a kid so the plate must be hot!*
- 6. He always had a slinky within reaching distance, don't touch it*
- 7. He also had his annuals within reaching distance, also don't touch them*
- 8. Don't mess with his class ring*
- 9. when Courtney and I used to walk in grandmas house he'd be sitting on the couch roll his eyes and say oh god 🤔 but then smiled and gave us a hug*
- 10. After I got married, when I'd see him it was never hi Julie, it was always a where's Dillon? 😂*
- 11. Always have plenty of time and don't rush him*
- 12. You'd often hear someone to ask him to quit croaking and he'd sweetly say ok then start back*
- 13. He had more t shirts from Colorado than I think our Colorado family has*
- 14. He taught me about Reba McEntire*
- 15. He loved life, he loved people, and most importantly he loved him.*

Thinking back to all the memories we all have of him will make us smile, cry, and miss him, but to think of where he is now...back with grandma and seeing papa Ken, man what joy that can bring to us if we imagine that reunion. So when we're feeling sad and missing that big part Tommy had in our lives, we can be promised that we'll have a reunion with him one day as well.

"The difference between ordinary and extraordinary, is what Tommy was..a little extra" but perfect as god made him.

Love you Thomas Bennett, our sweet, spoiled, unforgettable uncle Tommy ❤️

Julie Lillibridge - September 30, 2024 at 07:01 PM

BS

Very sweet Julie! Great memories! Thank you for sharing!

Bobby Story - September 30, 2024 at 08:52 PM

KS

That's beautiful my darling daughter Julie. You make me so proud over and over again. Same as my boys. My dear brother, you're Uncle Tom hears your heartfelt message. Also, thank you to all who helped our family make this a very special day of Love. So many.

Love you dearly, Your Dad,

Keith Story - September 30, 2024 at 09:07 PM



You were both lucky to have each other in your lives!

Stacey Eggen - October 01, 2024 at 12:02 AM

LS



Lisa Story - October 04, 2024 at 03:46 AM

AG

“ Aunt Royce, Sheila, Janet, Jeff, Greg purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Thomas (Tommy) Bennett Story.



Aunt Royce, Sheila, Janet, Jeff, Greg - September 28, 2024 at 10:20 AM

AG

“ Aunt Royce, Sheila, Janet, Jeff, Greg planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas (Tommy) Bennett Story.

Aunt Royce, Sheila, Janet, Jeff, Greg - September 28, 2024 at 10:20 AM



“ Divine Light was purchased for the family of Thomas (Tommy) Bennett Story.



September 27, 2024 at 07:49 PM

RM

“ Rebekah M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas (Tommy) Bennett Story.

Rebekah M. - September 27, 2024 at 07:49 PM

LW

“ Tommy was such a sweet person I made friends with him the years I worked. At cable company. He has surely made heaven brighter..I'm so sorry for your loss may God be with you At this sad time. Linda Westbrook

linda Westbrook - September 27, 2024 at 11:53 AM

LS



Lisa Story - October 04, 2024 at 03:48 AM

CG

“ Clifford Garner purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Thomas (Tommy) Bennett Story.



Clifford Garner - September 27, 2024 at 09:16 AM