



Thomas Jefferson Shelton Jr.

DEC 27, 1934 - APR 28, 2015



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Shelton, Thomas Jefferson Jr. (80) of Safety Harbor, died peacefully on April 28, 2015, at Hospice Care Center in Palm Harbor due to back of tongue cancer. He was preceded in death by his parents (Vivian & Thomas Shelton, Sr.); grandson (Ryan Mitchell) and son-in-law (Thomas Mitchell). Mr. Shelton is survived by his wife of 54 years, Judy; daughter, Traci Zimmerman (Clearwater); sons - Stephen Shelton (Palm Harbor) & Todd Shelton (California); grandchildren – Emily Mitchell (Holiday); Stephen & Susan Smith (North Carolina); Taylor Bay (North Carolina); Danielle and Tommy Shelton (Jacksonville); 2 great granddaughters – Arliyah & Mariyah Arline (Holiday); and his sister, Betty Ezell (Seminole).

Mr. Shelton was born in St. Pete and graduated from St. Pete High School. He was very proud of his family roots in Pinellas County and was a proud American Patriot. He served with the U.S. Army in Germany, as well as in the Army Reserves when he returned to the U.S. He worked in the insurance industry for many years and retired (after 25 years) from AIG in 2011. He was an avid baseball fan (since he was a young child) and never missed a Rays game on TV (when he was not able to attend a game). He also loved car racing, reading, history, and playing games – especially solitaire & word search puzzles in his later years.

He was a wonderful and loving husband and dad. He loved being a “Boompah” to his 7 grandchildren and 2 great granddaughters. Even friends of the family called him Boomps and he loved it. He was well known for his great stories and great memory on all the little details (made you feel like you were right there with him when it happened). He always had a smile on his face and spoke kindly of everyone he knew and met. He always said he was a “lover not a fighter”, which is definitely true and how he lived his life.

A Celebration of Tom’s Life will be held at 12:00 pm on May 30, 2015 at Moss Feaster in Clearwater, which will be followed by a procession to his final resting place (Sylvan



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Abbey Cemetery in Clearwater).

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you please consider donating to Hospice Care Center in Palm Harbor, so that they can continue to care for others as they did their loved one, Tom.



Events

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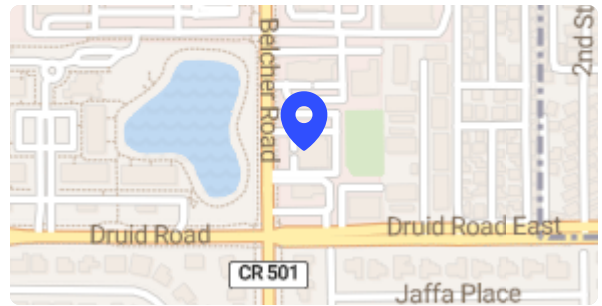
Gathering of Friends

Saturday, May 30, 2015

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM ET

Moss Feaster Funeral Home and Cremation Services - Clearwater

693 South Belcher Road, Clearwater FL 33764



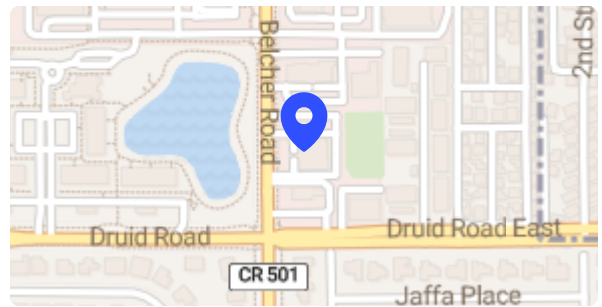
Memorial Service

Saturday, May 30, 2015

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM ET

Moss Feaster Funeral Home and Cremation Services - Clearwater

693 South Belcher Road, Clearwater FL 33764



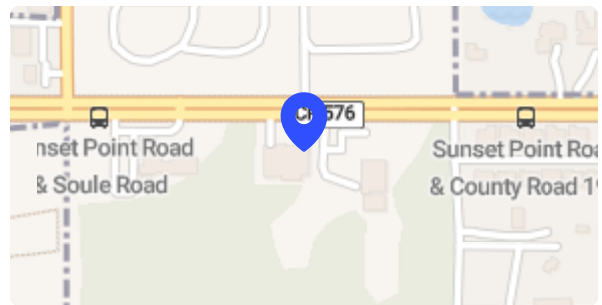
Burial

Saturday, May 30, 2015

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM ET

Sylvan Abbey Memorial Park

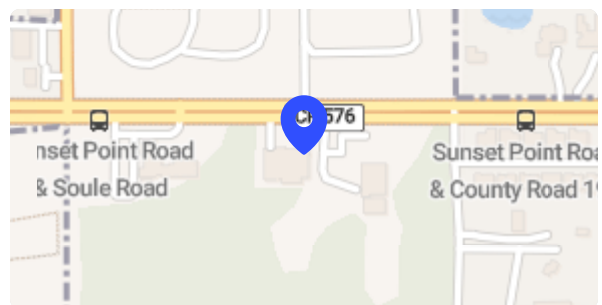
2853 Sunset Point Road, Clearwater FL



Cemetery Details

Sylvan Abbey Memorial Park

2853 Sunset Point Road, Clearwater FL





Tribute Wall

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Todd Shelton posted:

I have to count myself as being fortunate and grateful to Thomas for raising me in such a beautiful place. For the chance to grow up in a small Florida town. I also count myself fortunate to have a father who indulged my young curiosity. He allowed my love of photography to grow, taught me to love the history of the automobile, gave me my love of racing, gave me my love of radio communications, my love of country, and gave me stories of a Florida that I could still see glimpses of while growing up. He gave me a place to call home. Thomas was a humble man. He would rarely talk about himself or the things he had done in life. He was however, always a proud American. The one story I will share is when I was stationed on one of my ships. We were finishing up a short cruise in the Caribbean and afterwards had a Tiger Cruise. A Tiger Cruise is when family and friends are allowed on board for a short underway period, and they are exposed to a tiny slice of life aboard an active warship. Ours began in Key West and went to Pascagoula MS. He was extremely excited to go on this cruise, and I know he enjoyed it. I recall vividly our 2nd day out, we did a small arms fire from one of the bridge wings about 35ft off the water. Seas were calm with a bit of a rolling swell, so the ship had a bit of roll, and we were standing back about 15 feet or so watching the other Tigers shoot at this barrel floating about 100ft out, and missing. I had never seen him shoot any sort of gun in my life, so I asked him if he would like to shoot? He said it had been awhile, but he'd give it a try. He steps up, is given a choice of a M60 Machine Gun on a mount or an old M14. He chooses the M14 because he had used one in the Army, is given a 10 round magazine, lines up on the unharmed barrel and slowly and methodically fires all 10 rounds into the barrel, hands the rifle back to the gunner, said his thanks and that it brought back memories. My dad always down played the serious things in life. He's probably looking down, wondering why we're all making such a fuss. Although I will mourn his passing, I will celebrate his memory when I see an old car, when I take a picture, when I enjoy an auto race, or when I watch a baseball game. BUT especially when I take a photo of an old car at an auto race around a baseball stadium. I believe that he would enjoy that.

May 30 at 4:13 AM



Howard Whittington posted:

Dear Judy and Tracy -darn computers-----If my 1st message got send please ignore this one But hopefully My love and condolences got through to you and your families. Call if you have questions. Love Howard Whittington

May 24 at 8:50 AM



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Deanna Gray shared an album called **New Album Name**.



May 15 at 12:24 PM



Traci Zimmerman May 19 at 12:29 PM

Thank you Deanna. :)



Melissa Worth Whiteside posted:

Tom Shelton aka Boompah will forever be one of the kindest, gentlest people I will ever meet. His humor from my teenage years with Traci keep me laughing to this day - especially Traci's almost Indian name. I will forever remember this loving man and am sure everyone that knew him will do the same. I can see him hugging Ryan and Tom right now. It is a glorious vision. Until we are all together again Boompah! Prayers to the entire family.

May 6 at 11:24 AM



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Traci Zimmerman posted:

Dad, I miss and love you more than words can say. It seems like it has been longer than 8 days since i last saw you. I am so thankful I was able to spend your last 7 hours with you. I pray it gave you comfort knowing i was there (and that Mom & Emily visited you too). You were a wonderful dad and Boompah. My life will not be the same without out you - and i will miss our times together and hearing the stories about your adventures. But I TRULY believe that you are in a better place - with Ryan, Thomas and your parents. I hope you guys get to watch lots of baseball games - especially with all the great players that are in heaven (aka your "new address")!. I also hope that Babe Ruth will resign a baseball for you (and you can keep it this time. :) I am so sad that we didn't get to go to a baseball game like we had dreamed before you left this world - but please know i will always think of you when I see a baseball game (in person or on tv). Thanks for ALL the great memories and teaching me to be the person that i am today. I promise you will never be forgotten - by me or anyone that ever had the privilege to meet you. With love always, your favorite daughter - Traci Maureen

May 6 at 6:45 AM



Deanna Gray May 15 at 12:17 PM

Boomps, you will be in our hearts forever. God bless you. We will miss you more than words can say.



Sandi Mckendree May 15 at 7:53 AM

Always enjoy my memories of high school and especially the good friends who were my classmates. Tommy was the nicest, happiest and friendliest guy! We had lots of good times together especially going to Triplets - the drive-in hamburger joint that was a favorite gathering spot for lots of SPSHS kids. Tommy & I were in the same graduating class -1952. Ours was the last class to graduate from St. Petersburg High School when it and St. Paul's Catholic High School were the only high schools in St. Pete. Tommy's passing leaves a big empty spot, here on earth, for many people. My deepest sympathy goes to his large and loving family and his many friends.



Darcy Brindle May 7 at 4:30 PM

When we first moved to Florida from NY, the Sheltons/Mitchells were the first people we grew close with. And I'm so glad we did. Knowing Traci and her Tom, Ryan and Emily and Traci's parents Tom and Judy made me feel like I had a family here. So many wonderful memories. I think of Boomps, Tom and Ryan together now watching all you amazing (and gorgeous) girls- Judy, Traci, Emily, Riyah, and Arliyah. Rest in peace Boomps -you sweet, kind and true gentleman. Love from all the Brindles...Darcy, Chris, Todd and Jeffrey xxoo



Cheryl Fulgieri May 7 at 3:29 PM

Tom was such a great man with the most wonderful spirit! It was a pleasure to know him and what he ment to his family. May you rest in peace with all of your family you have rejoined. All my love and prayers to the family.



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Jewel Fitzpatrick May 6 at 12:00 PM

Such a sweet and gentle toned man. I had the privilege of meeting this kindly spirit and I'm so happy I did. I tuned into his stories of his adventures and he had me happily laughing. He will be missed and will live on thru his children and their children. God bless this family as they grieve and continue life's journey until they see Boomps again. RIP and in our Father's loving arms.



Laurena Hedges May 6 at 11:50 AM

A Daddy's Love is Eternal. My heart is heavy for you as I lost my Dad suddenly. I'm sure they have already met by now. I'm always here my friend if you need it.



Media

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Deanna Gray shared a photo to the **New Album Name** album.

May 15 at 12:24 PM





Memories only last if you share them

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



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