



Thomas Milton Benson

July 26, 1965 - March 8, 2026

Local businessman, community leader, and sports enthusiast, Thomas M (Tommy) Benson, "earned his wings" on Sunday, March 8, 2026, at his home in Ripley after a long and courageous battle with illness.

Born on July 26, 1965, Tommy graduated from Ripley High School in 1984 and began working in the family lumber business shortly thereafter. In 1997, he and his father opened Benson Home Supply, where he continued to serve faithfully until his retirement in 2020. An article describing his business reads, "Whether you need lumber, lights, or laughs, this is the place to be. There is a casual coziness that exists there, if you come in for the coffee, the camaraderie, the latest Cardinal scores, or just because you don't want to miss anything." No purchase necessary!

Tommy was a family man who lived for "his girls" (wife and three daughters). Whatever their passion or project was also his. He was recognized as a people person who never met a stranger. Listening to bluegrass music, wearing Hawaiian shirts, and a distinctive wave from his pick-up truck in passing were recognizable traits of his outgoing personality. With his friendly demeanor and strong sense of loyalty, he was a treasured friend to many. Even during the serious illnesses and frequent hospital visits in recent years, he continued a wicked sense of humor, an amazing fortitude and resilience, and a witness to his faith that was incomparable.

Tommy was a lifelong member of Ripley First Methodist Church, where he taught Sunday School, served on numerous committees, and was an acolyte trainer and usher. He also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Tippah Electric Power Association.

As an avid supporter of the St. Louis Cardinals, his enthusiasm for his favorite team left little doubt who he was rooting for. The allegiance to this particular team, which he and his grandmother shared, was featured in an article, "A Family Tradition," published in the Southern Sentinel in 2008. He also followed Nascar, and when greeting a special friend, they either held up "2" or a "3" attesting to their support of a favorite driver. Local sports also merited his support as he regularly sponsored and coached little league softball and baseball teams and led the "Chain Gang" for the high school football team for over twenty years.

Tommy is survived by his wife Kim Childs Benson; his daughters Carlee Harrell, Brooke Ann Hopper (Andrew), and Teigh Benson; his mother Carla Benson, brother Skip Benson (Becky); sister Teresa Cooper (Brad); and five grandchildren: Gage, Bo, Bren, and Ronnie Grace Harrell and Maggie Drew, and New Arrival, Baby Girl Hopper.

He was preceded in death by his father, Bobby Benson, and his grandparents, Tom and Cecil Benson, and Milton and Doris Freeman.

Pallbearers: Chad Brown, Hunter Cornelius, Matt Childs, Keith Clark, Jeff Stokes, Witt Long, Jacob Ralph, Brian "Bubb" Caviness, Shane Bourg, Shane Taylor, Ken Cooper

Honorary: Rosemary Reed, Billy Hoyt Richardson, Billy Ray Vance, The Breakfast Crew, The Ripley High School Chain Gang, The Ripley High School

Class of 1984, The Tippah Electric Power Association Board

The family extends a heartfelt gratitude to the multitude of medical personnel and staff and faithful friends for their compassion, kindness, and excellent care, which were provided during his long journey through pain.

The family requests memorials be made to Ripley First Methodist Church, 302 S. Main St., Ripley, MS 38663.

Cemetery Details

Tippah Memorial Gardens

Hwy 370
Ripley, MS

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 10. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

McBride Funeral Home, Inc.
206 N. Commerce St
Ripley, MS 38663
(662) 837-8101
mcbriдерipley@gmail.com
<https://www.mcbridefuneralhome.com>

Visitation

MAR 11. 7:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

McBride Funeral Home, Inc.
206 N. Commerce St
Ripley, MS 38663
(662) 837-8101
mcbriдерipley@gmail.com
<https://www.mcbridefuneralhome.com>

Service

MAR 11. 11:00 AM (CT)

McBride Funeral Home, Inc.
206 N. Commerce St
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Tribute Wall



“ *Brittany Thompson lit a candle in memory of Thomas Milton Benson*



Brittany Thompson - March 15 at 07:18 PM

LG

“ *Linda Graves lit a candle in memory of Thomas Milton Benson*



Linda Graves - March 13 at 09:37 PM

MH

“ *Marty And Carmen Hubbard lit a candle in memory of Thomas Milton Benson*



Marty and Carmen Hubbard - March 11 at 06:29 PM

KR

“ *Prayer and hugs sent to the family... Tommy was always friendly and would wave and / or give a holler when driving by... A good neighbor gone too soon...*



Kenneth Rainey - March 11 at 11:43 AM

DB

“ *Don Bowling sends his sympathies and the family remains in his prayers*

Don Bowling - March 11 at 11:18 AM

PH

“ *Even in his worst moments, Tommy would lift YOU/ME up. EVERY! SINGLE! TIME!*



Pamela Hill - March 11 at 09:40 AM



“ *Lisa Cockrell Brown lit a candle in memory of Thomas Milton Benson*



Lisa Cockrell Brown - March 11 at 05:07 AM

CM

“ *The visitors sideline at Ridley Tiger Field just won't be the same. I always appreciated visiting and sharing with Tommy. The last time I was there with Pontotoc it was cold and pouring rain. Tommy and his crew made it more enjoyable. A first class individual. He will be greatly missed by many.*

coach tommy morton - March 10 at 08:32 PM

ML

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family . Kenneth and Mary Jo Lence

Mary Jo and Kenneth Lence - March 11 at 11:06 AM

BE

“ *Belinda lit a candle in memory of Thomas Milton Benson*



Belinda - March 10 at 11:44 AM



“ *Love and prayers to the Benson family and all that will miss this beautiful soul. So many fond memories to keep us connected until we meet again.*

Tommy always greeted with a smile, a hug and 'I love you's to the family' to all he knew no matter where you might be blessed to run into him. He will be missed.



Donna Adams - March 10 at 11:04 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Thomas Milton Benson.*

March 10 at 11:02 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Thomas Milton Benson.*



March 10 at 11:02 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Milton Benson.*



March 10 at 10:43 AM



“ *My Thoughts, My Condolences, My Prayers, and My Love goes up and out to Tommy family, friends, and loved ones! Absent from body is to be present with the Lord! Not goodbye but see later my friend!*



Mark Chills - March 10 at 10:38 AM



“ *My Thoughts, My Condolences, My Prayers, and My Love goes up and out to Tommy family, friends, and loved ones! Absent from body is to be present with Lord! Not goodbye but see later my friend!*



Mark Chills - March 10 at 10:35 AM



“ *Mark Chills lit a candle in memory of Thomas Milton Benson*



Mark Chills - March 10 at 10:26 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas Milton Benson.*



March 10 at 08:13 AM



“ *Judy Gaillard lit a candle in memory of Thomas Milton Benson*



Judy Gaillard - March 09 at 11:36 PM



“ *Terrye Grisham lit a candle in memory of Thomas Milton Benson*



Terrye Grisham - March 09 at 10:50 PM



“ *Have a lot of great memories of high school with Tommy. To Kim and Ms. Carla, and the rest of the family , I'm so very sorry for your loss, and I will be praying for comfort and peace in the days to come! May God Bless you!! 🙏🙏*



Jeanna Crowder - March 09 at 08:48 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Thomas Milton Benson.

March 09 at 08:08 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Milton Benson.



March 09 at 08:08 PM



“ Gwen Hill lit a candle in memory of Thomas Milton Benson



Gwen Hill - March 09 at 08:00 PM



“ Jackie&Polly Stokes lit a candle in memory of Thomas Milton Benson



Jackie&Polly Stokes - March 09 at 07:53 PM

JN

“ Jonathan, Annina, Rose, and Ruby Nabors purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Thomas Milton Benson.



Jonathan, Annina, Rose, and Ruby Nabors - March 09 at 07:46 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Thomas Milton Benson.

March 09 at 07:39 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Milton Benson.



March 09 at 07:39 PM