



## Tommy Valentine

July 31, 1935 - April 18, 2019

Tommy Rudolph Valentine of Terrell, Texas passed away April 18, 2019 in Sunnyvale, TX. Tom was born July 31, 1935 in Van, Texas to Lewis Vernon Valentine and Lila Birdie Shields Valentine.

Tom is preceded in death by his parents and one brother and sister-in-law, Glenn Dean and Beulah Valentine.

He attended schools in Tyler and Van before moving to Terrell in 1945. He graduated from Terrell High School in the class of 1954. While in high school he worked for the Brin Store, selling men's apparel. After high school graduation he attended Draughn's Business College studying bookkeeping, cost accounting, and auditing. Following Draughn's he worked briefly for Canada Dry Ginger Ale, then went to East Texas State University where he majored in History and Economics. Following his time at East Texas State University he was employed by the Texas Daily Press League, Inc. as a statistician. He was later employed at Dallas Foundry, Inc. and then Bass and Hays Foundry in Grand Prairie. He retired in 2013 as President of the company after 46 years.

Tom was married to his sweetheart, Annette Welborn, on October 23, 1983. They have two children, Tommy R. Valentine, Jr and Emily Jean Valentine, both of Terrell.

In March of 1984 Tom took Annette on a delayed honeymoon to China. While there they made fast friends with their national tour guide, Chang Wang. Chang and his wife, Su; along with their son Cheng and wife, Kim, are considered part of Tom and Annette's family.

In 1995, Tom and Annette hosted a foreign exchange student, Oriol Pena, from Barcelona, Spain. Oriol brought 7 other exchange students into the Valentine home. Tom became known as Big Tommy and Annette was affectionately dubbed "Headmama". Those 8 exchange students greatly impacted all the Valentine's lives and they are also considered part of the family and all of them still stay in contact on a regular basis after all these years. Those "chosen" family members left to mourn Tom's passing are Oriol Pena of Barcelona, Spain - Fidel Ramirez of Freiburg, Germany- Pamela Velez Magdoff of Maryland-Magnus Lund of Sweden and Ate Martinelli, Fabiano Silva, Fernanda Correa and Luiz Barbosa all of Brazil. In addition, there are 7 spouses and 13 "grandchildren" Tom and Annette claim as their own.

Tom was an active member of the Terrell Heritage Society since 1973, serving as President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and as an active director. Tom also served on the Oakland Memorial Park Cemetery Association board.

Tom loved to cook and enjoyed catering special occasions. It gave him great pleasure to set up a fancy hor d'oeuvres buffet for a hundred people. He knew he had the "one" when Annette first pitched in to polish silver and wash dishes.

Tom was a collector of antiques and loved whiling away the hours in antique stores and at First Monday Trade Days in Canton. He loved to read and collected books, he especially enjoyed reading the old classics. One of Tom's favorite hobbies was genealogy research. He spent countless hours tracing

several lines of his family back as far as the 1600's. He amassed a gargantuan amount of genealogy data. So much so, that Annette finally relented and agreed to a "House of Genealogy" in the back yard (a massive 2 story structure) dubbed the HOG. Tom also greatly enjoyed attending and sometimes hosting family reunions for the Valentine, Smithart and Shields families.

Tom was a member of the First Baptist Church of Terrell. After retirement Tom enjoyed puttering around the yard with his favorite little buddy, Tetchy, a 13 pound Chihuahua with a 60 pound attitude.

Tom is survived by his loving wife of 35 years, Annette, his son, Tommy Jr and daughter, Emily, Tetchy, the Wang family, the "Exchange Gang", precious cousin and lifetime friend, Maxine Darst Flatt, and a huge host of nieces, nephews, cousins and other family and friends.

Jesse Valentine, Johnny Currey, Danny Currey, Ronnie Chitty, Chang Wang and Cheng Wang will serve as pallbearers.

Funeral service will be at 1:00pm, Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at Max Slayton Funeral Chapel with interment to follow at Oakland Memorial Park. His family will receive friends 5:00pm to 7:00pm, Monday, April 22, at the funeral home.

# Cemetery Details

## Oakland Memorial Park

1000 W. Moore Avenue  
Terrell, TX 75160

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 22. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Max Slayton Funerals and Cremations  
642 N Rockwall Avenue  
Terrell, TX 75160  
(972) 524-0881  
<https://www.maxslaytonfunerals.com>

## Funeral Service

APR 23. 1:00 PM (CT)

Max Slayton Funeral Chapel  
642 N. Rockwall Ave.  
Terrell, TX 75160

# Tribute Wall



“ Tommy Valentine

October 08, 2023 at 07:43 PM



“ Debbie Milliken-Martin lit a candle in memory of Tommy Valentine



Debbie Milliken-Martin - April 24, 2019 at 12:03 AM



“ Tom and Annette have been true friends for 13 years, he will be missed dearly. Thank you for sharing your family and friendship with me.

Annette, Emily, and Tommy y'all will be in my prayers. God bless you and keep you during this time of sorrow.

Patrick Bennett - April 23, 2019 at 12:35 PM



“ Donna lit a candle in memory of Tommy Valentine



Donna - April 22, 2019 at 02:22 PM



“ 239 files added to the album LifeTributes



Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations - April 22, 2019 at 10:52 AM



“ I will personally miss seeing Tommy at the family gatherings. He was a sweet and kind man. Always interested in his roots. Rest in peace, dear cousin. Mae Valentine

Mae Valentine - April 20, 2019 at 09:34 AM



“ Ray & Susan Pinson lit a candle in memory of Tommy Valentine



Ray & Susan Pinson - April 20, 2019 at 01:22 AM

JH

“ Tommy and I have been good friends since the start of the Terrell elementary school year in 1946. We graduated together as loyal maroon and white tigers in the spring of 1954. He always displayed a low key disposition with sincerity and no pretense with me throughout these many years. I truly appreciate and remember the friendship we have enjoyed. To Annette and family, please accept sincere condolences on behalf of Ann and myself. Never knew his middle name was Rudolph. His nickname to me was always TV. We have lost a good one.  
James Huffman

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**James Huffman** - April 19, 2019 at 06:34 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Tommy Valentine.



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April 19, 2019 at 02:44 PM

JW

“ Jim Yvonne Wynne lit a candle in memory of Tommy Valentine



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**Jim Yvonne Wynne** - April 19, 2019 at 12:51 PM



“ *Our prayers are with you all. He was a kind and generous man. May God's peace fill your lives in the days ahead.*  
*Greg Pharris*

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**Greg Pharris** - April 19, 2019 at 08:45 AM

EK

“ *Elaine Kasper lit a candle in memory of Tommy Valentine*



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**Elaine Kasper** - April 18, 2019 at 10:18 PM