



Tommy Whiteside

June 15, 1933 - May 29, 2023

Tommy Lee Whiteside, well known and well loved lifetime resident of Elmo, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Monday, May 29, 2023 after a brief illness.

Tommy was born in Elmo, TX on June 15, 1933 to Griff and Ola Mae Whiteside. Tommy lived his entire life in Elmo. When he was 16, he met the love of his life, Wanda Coker. Two years later, they were married. He and Wanda were together for 71 years! They had two sons, both of whom they loved dearly, Perry and Timmy.

During his lifetime, Tommy had many jobs where he met a variety of people, many of whom became treasured friendships. For year he managed Flanagan's Supermarket in Wills point. He and Wanda owned and operated the Elmo Superette. After selling the store, Tommy went to work for Bill Brumley selling and delivering produce. His last job was working for the Elmo Water Corporation where all the connections he made over the years made all the difference as Elmo grew.

Tommy was one of the founding members of the Elmo Volunteer Fire Department and he served as Chief from 1979 until his retirement. He also served on the Wills Point ISD School Board for many years.

Tommy had many hobbies. He loved tending to his animals and throughout his life, he always had cows, horses, and chicken. Another passion was working in his garden. He could not wait until spring so that could start planting. He was also an avid fisherman and always carried his rod and reel

with him just in case he saw a pond that “looked good”.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Griff and Ola Mae Whiteside, his beloved wife, Wanda Whiteside and brothers, Jack and Don Whiteside.

Tommy is survived by his sons, Perry Whiteside and Timmy Whiteside; sister, Margaret Dudley; sisters-in-law, Kathlyn Rhine and Linda Whiteside and Donna Coker as well as several nieces, nephews, extended family, countless friends and the entire community of Elmo, each of whom will miss Tommy greatly and never forget him.

Funeral service will be at 10:00am, Thursday, June 1, 2023 at Max Slayton Funeral Chapel with his family receiving friends beginning at 9:00am to service time. Interment will follow at Elmo Cemetery where Tommy will be laid to rest by his beloved wife, Wanda.

For those wishing, memorials in honor of Tommy may be made to the Elmo Cemetery Association, PO Box150, Elmo, TX, 75118.

Cemetery Details

Elmo Cemetery

CR 352
Elmo, TX 75161

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 1. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

JUN 1. 10:00 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Max Slayton Funerals and Cremations created a Webcast in memory of Tommy Whiteside*



Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations - December 26, 2025 at 03:24 PM



“ *Tommy Whiteside*

October 08, 2023 at 07:43 PM



“ *Perry and family~
Sending my sympathy in the loss of your Dad.
I remember when he was at Flanagan's Grocery years ago. My mother always thought so much of him. God Bless you.
Your friend,
Lauree Longacre Morgan, Class '71*

Lauree Morgan - June 02, 2023 at 12:37 AM



“ Working here in Terrell for over 17 years, two people stand out as the MOST helpful and the kindest to the 'new girl' when i started working for Max: Rayford Harwell and Tommy Whiteside. At visitations, Tommy made sure my every question about who a person was, where they were from and grew up and how they were all related. He was a font of information, a wealth of knowledge, a treasure trove of trivia and a heart of gold. Many times, he'd see me closing a grave in Elmo and come over and just sit down and chat. Wanda would come out on the front porch and holler for him but he'd just wave and keep on talking to me so I'd know all the info i needed to know. Anytime Tommy walked in the funeral home, he was the one i rushed up to for a hug. He was never without an opinion, a funny story or an Elmo area update and he always had a squint in his eye that BARELY hid the eternal mischievousness! It is a vast understatement to say that Tommy Whiteside will be missed because, while there is a BIG hole in Elmo (and all our lives), there is an even BIGGER reunion in Heaven when he saw Wanda again. When he opened his eyes up there, Tommy heard her hollering to come on, and he didn't wave this time...he walked right over to her and went Home.
We loved you so much, Tommy!
-Veronica

Veronica W. Slayton - May 31, 2023 at 01:43 PM

SM

We have known Tommy for most of our lives. I was 19 and David was 20 when we first met him and as you said Veronica, he wore many hats. Throughout the years we lived in Elmo, Tommy was a constant. Sometimes it was like he would just appear. I remember a grass fire started a couple of roads over from David's parents' property. When it got to the back fence of their pasture, we were out there trying to stop it, next thing we know, Tommy was pulling through the livestock gate with a water truck. He made several passes back and forth and turned the fire towards the area where there were fewer houses. No homes burned, no one was seriously injured and no loss of any pets or farm animals.

There are so many stories so many memories. He was loving, witty, helpful and always caring. Our kids still enjoying telling stories of how good he was to them. Tommy is now a Saint in heaven and a missed treasure here on this earth!

Sandy and David Mahaffey

Sandy and David Mahaffey - June 01, 2023 at 03:12 PM

CH

Mr Tommy Whiteside was a friend to my family the Hamilton holmes and Garrett family we will miss him earth has no sorrow heaven can not heal God has to and your family

Carolyn holmes - June 01, 2023 at 06:18 PM

JJ

“ I have known Tommy many years and sorry he has passed on. I have always thought of him as being the long time “Mayor of Elmo.” He will be missed.

Joe Jaynes - May 29, 2023 at 07:36 PM

MM

“ My condolences to Tommy’s family for your loss. Tommy worked for my daddy for many years. He shall be missed.

Mary Ann Miller - May 29, 2023 at 06:02 PM

DH

TOMMY WAS ALWAYS , ALONG WITH WILLIAM, THE STAR OF OUR FAMILY REUNION. HE CERTAINLY WILL BE MISSED. THE HOBBS FAMILY

DON HOBBS - May 31, 2023 at 08:12 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Tommy Whiteside.*



May 29, 2023 at 04:21 PM