



Thomas Bates

October 29, 1941 - March 16, 2011

Thomas Eugene (Papa Tom) Bates, 69, of Mansfield, Arkansas passed from this life Wednesday, March 16, 2011 in a Fort Smith Hospital. Thomas was born on October 29, 1941 in Barber, Arkansas to the late Gene and Edith (Allen) Bates. He loved to hunt, camp and watch old westerns. He was a diesel mechanic and was a Master Mason and member of the Lynch Prairie Lodge #568 F&AM. He is survived by one son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Ronna Bates, one daughter and son-in-law, Vicki and Glen "Zipper" Rupe, all of Mansfield; two sisters and brother-in-laws, Treva and Ralph Coffee, Lucille and Donald Carpenter, all of Waldron; two brothers, Bo Bates and wife Belinda of Arkoma, OK, and Scotty Bates of Fort Smith, Arkansas. He is also survived by four grandchildren: Heather Raven Grant, Michael Smith, Thomas Bates, and Sarah Bates; two great grandchildren: Natalie Brewer and Aaron Brewer; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife JoAnn Bates and his parents Gene and Edith Bates. Thomas's funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, March 19, 2011 at the Heritage Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Brother Larry Free, officiating. Interment will follow in the Freedom Cemetery near Waldron, Arkansas. Arrangements are being entrusted to the Heritage Memorial Funeral Home & Crematory in Waldron, Arkansas. Thomas's pallbearers will be Cody Carpenter, Gary Bates, Casey Grant, Stephen Steele, Bob Caldwell, Wilson Kennedy, Tim Coffey, and Billy Bates. Thomas's visitation will be 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Friday, March 18, 2011 at the Heritage Memorial Funeral Home where his

family will receive friends at the funeral home from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Tribute Wall

IR

“ *i really miss tommy ill seee you agin somedaay*

irelynn - August 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ *Lucille and Family, sorry to hear about Tommy, had fun tradeing funny books & baseball cards with him when we were growing up. My thoughts & prayers are with you and your famly.*

Jimmy "Jeto" Piles - March 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ *Thought the world of Tom,the staff of 5West at SRMC thought of him and his family as our family.Prayers go out to you.*

Connie Timmons RN - March 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ *sorry to hear that tommy had passed away I grew up next door to him in Waldron Arkansas*

Jerry Douglas - March 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ *May The Lord Jesus bless and comfort all of you in your loss.*

Shirley Shaw Rahorst - March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ *Another school class mate gone my prayers go out to the family, Tommy will surely be missed.*

Bill Luttrell - March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ We are so sorry to hear of Tommy's passing. Our sincerely condolences to his family and friends.

Al and Lynne Bates - March 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM

T(

“ We have all been blessed to have known you. Heaven is a little sweeter now.

Tammy (Jenkins)Greenlee - March 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Love you uncle tommy.. We will miss you..

Jen, Chris, and destiny mccaafferty - March 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ So sorry for you loss! May God give you the strength to make it through this difficult time!

Sharron Leister - March 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ dear uncle tom i love you very much and we all will remember the things you did aleast your walking by jesus now

christian carpenter - March 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

IC

“ dear uncle tom i love you and youll be dearly missed and ill never forget how you used to tickle my face with a screw driver during church one again i love you =)

irelynn carpenter - March 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ Sorry to learn of Tom's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are for each of you during this time of sorrow. We had fun growing up in Waldron together.

Roy & Carolyn Killion - March 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GH

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this most difficult time.

Gary and C hristy Hattabaugh - March 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ gary vicki we are so sorry about your loss, but we know he is just asleep and is no longer in pain... and you can also have the hope of seeing him again.. i know you are hurting now,but time heals all may god bless and comfort you at this time...

bob and jewel rogers - March 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ We will miss you. this from the whole Wyatt family. Our prayers are with the family. RIP Tom.

Jacque Wyatt Ratley - March 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ You couldn't find a better friend than Tom! He will always be in our hearts while we are on this side of Heaven, but I know we will see him again when our time on this earth is through. He is rejoicing with his Savior and is reunited with his loved ones who had gone on before him. Praying for the family for peace and comfort.

Jolley Family - March 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

EB

“ I love you so much Uncle Tommy!! Youve showed us how hard a Bates could fight! I know you were tired... I miss you! I know we will see each other again!!

Ede Bates - March 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you

Dennis & Deidre Williams - March 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Scotty, Bo & family, my prayers are with you. My grandmother Campbell lived 2 doors down & The Campbell grandchildren were brought up with you. Your mother was my Sunday school teacher.

Meredith Sue (Campbell) Callahan - March 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ You are missed.

Todd and Jessica Brothers - March 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ Sending warm thoughts & prayers your way. We are so very sorry for your loss.
Love you guys!

Tim & Jacki Spain - March 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

WL

“ You were greatly loved and will be greatly missed.

Wanda Shaw Lundquist - March 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ You were the best grandfather I could ever ask for. I love you and I'll miss you till we meet again.

Sarah Bates - March 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ Treva and family sorry for your loss will keep your family in my prayers

Leann King and family - March 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ My prayers are still with all of you. God bless you, all.

Judy Coyle - March 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ God Bless each of you in your sorrow.

Marilyn Littleton - March 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ we all will miss you uncle tom we will never forget about you and what u did. we love you very much atleast ur walking by jesus

douglas carpenter - March 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ To the Bates' family--I know Tom is going to be so very missed. I will continue to pray for your family. There will never be a time I don't make Tom's famous Mexican Corbread that I won't think of him! He was a good man with a big heart!

Jason & Tammy (Moore) Teague - March 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

WV

“ Dear, Uncle Tom, I hope there is deer hunting in heaven if there is I will want to go hunting with you miss you uncle Tom.

Weston VanRavensway - March 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Tommy will be greatly missed.

Stacy (Bates) Singleton & Family - March 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TK

“ Uncle Tommy, I was happy to be your niece! I know we didn't spend as much time with each other as we should have, but I loved you just the same! Now you have the reward that you deserved so much! I will miss you dearly. This isn't goodbye..just see you later!

Tanya Kennedy - March 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ Uncle Tommy I Love and will miss you so very much, but I know we all will be gathered together again someday

Amie Carpenter - March 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Thomas Bates

Don and Joleen Condry - March 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ we will miss you.

Bob Caldwell - March 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ We miss and love you very much, Uncle Tommy! I will see you again someday in Heaven!

Tracie Bates - March 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ so sorry for your loss !we pray God will comfort you in this difficult time .Tommy was a great man !!

connie and slick sherrill - March 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ He will be missed.

Donnetta Harmon - March 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ Miss you and love you so much Uncle Tommy... See you again someday..

Tammy Caldwell - March 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ I love and miss you big brother..

Treva Coffey - March 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KV

“ You will be greatly missed Uncle Tom. Love you much.

Kandis VanRavensway - March 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM