



## Rev. Thomas William Kennedy

May 14, 1934 - October 23, 2022

Reverend Thomas William Kennedy, 88, passed away peacefully Sunday, October 23, 2022. He was the pastor of Forest Heights Baptist Church for 23 years before retiring from his many years of service in churches both here in FL and in AL. Not one to be idle, he then served 10 years as the Director of Missions for Gadsden County.

Tom is survived by his loving wife of 69 years, Carol Sullivan Kennedy. Together they have three sons, David (Mary), Alan (Carolyn), and Russell, seven grandchildren, fifteen great-grandchildren, and a brother, Danny Kennedy. He is preceded in death by his parents, Earl and Thelma Raley Kennedy, and a brother, Wayne Kennedy, all of Dothan, AL.

Tom and Carol, high school sweethearts, made their first home together in Birmingham, AL where he attended Howard College (now Samford University). The family grew there with the addition of two sons, David and Alan. Upon graduation, they moved to LA where Thomas earned a Master of Divinity degree from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 1963. He was called to his first staff position by Immanuel Baptist Church of Panama City, FL. From there, God led him to serve churches in Chiefland, Bradenton, Enterprise and Elba (both in AL), and Tallahassee. A third son, Russell, completed their family during his pastorate in Chiefland. Both he and Carol felt strongly about the teaching of God's word and equipping others to do so, as well. They taught at conference centers and area churches, discipling Sunday

School teachers and leaders for many years. Tom had a true gift for ministering to those who were hurting. It was a priority of his to visit and pray with church members who were in hospital. He trained as a member of the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Team and also made regular visits to the Margaret Z. Dozier Hospice House, bringing comfort to families and their dying loved ones.

He had a strong passion for football and was a standout kicker for Dothan High School and the team at Howard College. A love for Alabama (Roll Tide!) coursed through his veins and he enjoyed attending many games with his brother, Danny. Running was another passion and he logged countless miles on his daily runs through the years. Tom was quite famous for his noontime runs, no matter the temperature. "Hey, Tom, I saw you running down Tharpe Street the other day" could be heard often after church services on Sunday and Wednesday. Another love was writing. He studied extensively before carefully composing each sermon. Tom often wrote little poems and love notes to Carol. His biggest dream was achieved recently when he authored and published his life story, *From a Dirt Road to a Dream Realized*.

He loved his family which grew to quite the number. The grandkids hold very fond memories of growing up in church, taking part as angels and shepherds at the yearly Christmas Eve service at the FHBC Live Nativity, and going to breakfast at Cracker Barrel for some special "Grandad time." Being a pastor, it was his great honor to baptize his loved ones. He dedicated each of his grandchildren to the Lord as babies and prayed for them daily. He also performed the weddings of each of his three sons and five of his grandchildren. All beautiful testaments to his love for the Lord and a great legacy of faith for us to continue.

Funeral services for Reverend Kennedy will be held at 10:00 AM, EST, Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at Bevis Funeral Home Chapel, 200 John Knox Road, Tallahassee, FL. 32303. Interment will be held at 2:00 PM, CST, at

Memory Hill Cemetery, Dothan AL, 2414 Hartford Highway, Dothan, AL. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions made be made in Reverend Kennedy's name to Big Bend Hospice. Todd Wahlquist with Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193, [www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com)) is assisting the Kennedy family with their arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Memory Hill Cemetery

2414 Hartford Highway  
Dothan, AL 36305

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

OCT **26**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory  
200 John Knox Rd  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 385-2193

## Burial

OCT **26**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Memory Hill Cemetery  
2414 Hartford Highway  
Dothan, AL 36305

# Tribute Wall



“ *Bevis Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Rev. Thomas William Kennedy*



Bevis Funeral Home - October 26, 2022 at 09:16 AM



“ *Bro. Tom was loved dearly by our family. He was an important fixture in our lives for many many years. He was with us through the births, the baptisms, the weddings, and the burials of many of our loved ones. Forest Heights Baptist Church and our family and friends there will always hold a special place in my heart. To all all the Kennedy kids that I had in Youth, Mama Suzie will always love you♥My thoughts and prayers are with you sweet Mrs. Carol. To my two girls Nicki and Kelly you were known as “Aunt Kennedy”. What wonderful teaching they got from you in the pre-school. May God give you all peace and understanding and Bro. Tom we will see you again sir♥♥ Dennis & Suzie Elkins*

Suzie Elkins - October 26, 2022 at 06:56 PM



“ *We are so sorry for your loss. Mr. Kennedy was a Godly Man you could sense that when you were around him without anyone telling you he was a preacher. He will be miss our prayers are with you all.*

Karen & Ashley Moody - October 26, 2022 at 10:11 AM

CK

“ 21 files added to the album Grandad



Carolyn Kennedy - October 25, 2022 at 05:21 PM

SK

“ Reverend and Mrs. Kennedy were always so friendly and kind to us when we would see them and would sit and visit with us as if they'd known us forever. We rejoice knowing that as Reverend Tom was absent from his body, he was present with the Lord. We are praying for Mrs. Carol and all of the family that they will experience God's peace that passes understanding as they mourn his loss from their lives here on earth and that they will be comforted as they reflect on their special memories of him. Sandy, Behzad and Kathleen Khazraee

Sandra Khazraee - October 25, 2022 at 02:28 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rev. Thomas William Kennedy.



October 25, 2022 at 12:44 PM

BJ

“ Thank you for your years of service to our Lord. Remember your service back at Immanuel in Panama City. May each one remember the special times you had with Brother Tom. My prayers are with the family.

-----  
**Betty Jernigan** - October 25, 2022 at 09:43 AM

TC

“ Thomas, Ginger, and Michael Cook purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Rev. Thomas William Kennedy.



-----  
**Thomas, Ginger, and Michael Cook** - October 25, 2022 at 08:41 AM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Rev. Thomas William Kennedy.



-----  
October 25, 2022 at 04:20 AM

LT

“ Love and prayers, Zack and June Taylor purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Rev. Thomas William Kennedy.



-----  
**Love and prayers, Zack and June Taylor** - October 24, 2022 at 04:36 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Rev. Thomas William Kennedy.



---

October 24, 2022 at 03:56 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket* was purchased for the family of Rev. Thomas William Kennedy.



---

October 24, 2022 at 02:53 PM