



Hon. Thomas A. "Tommy" Stevens Sr.

May 20, 1931 - November 6, 2011

Thomas A. "Tommy" Stevens, Sr., 80, of Tallahassee, was taken home by our Lord on Sunday, November 6, 2011. He was a devout Christian and loved his fellow man. "He did for many, but many will never know".

He is survived by his wife, Henrietta Ellison Stevens and his children; Thomas A. Stevens, Jr. (Karen) of Mims, FL; Hayes Warren Stevens (Arlene) of St. Joseph, FL; Mary Smisek (George), Nancy Stevens of Dade City, FL, Laura Schrader (Terry) of San Antonio, FL; Walker Morgan (Chris) of Tallahassee, FL; thirteen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Also surviving are his sister, Stanya Goff (Mike) of Bartow, FL; and his uncle, Stanley Castle Burnside of Dade City.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas Carson Stevens and Mary Huberta Burnside Stevens, and a sister, Lucy Albena Berkstresser.

Mr. Stevens, a citrus grower and an insurance executive was a native of Dade City and a fifth generation member of a Pasco County pioneer family, the Burnsides. His grandfather, Archie James Burnside served as Pasco County Clerk of the Court for more than 50 years and was succeeded by his son, Stanley Castle Burnside.

He was a graduate of Pasco High School going on to further his education at

St. Leo College and the University of Florida where his love of the Florida Gators began. Fall was his favorite season; he could spend Saturdays in the Swamp cheering on his beloved Gators. He was a long standing “Bull Gator” who enjoyed tailgating with his Gator family.

He was patriotic and proud to serve his country as a member of the Florida National Guard. He continued his public service as a member of the Florida House of Representatives from Pasco, Hernando, Hillsborough and Pinellas counties, 1962 through 1972. Mr. Stevens later served as Executive Assistant to William H. Bevis, Chairman of Florida Public Service Commission.

In 1978, he and Henrietta moved to Key West where they purchased Key West Insurance, Inc. spending more than 30 years in business there. He was an active member of the Florida Association of Insurance Agents for many years serving on the Board of Directors and various committees. During those years, he remained politically active and was dubbed “Mr. Republican” in local publications.

The funeral service will be held at 1:00 PM, EST, Thursday, November 10, 2011 at Bradfordville First Baptist Church with his grandsons serving as pallbearers. Interment will follow at Oakland Cemetery, Tallahassee. The family will receive friends from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM, Wednesday, November 9th at Bevis Funeral Home, Tallahassee.

On Saturday, November 12, at 11:00 AM, EST, a memorial service is scheduled in Dade City Florida at Calvary Assembly of God Church, US 98 By-Pass.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in Tommy’s memory may be made to Big Bend Hospice, 1723 Mahan Center Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32308 or to Bradfordville First Baptist Church, 6494 Thomasville Road, Tallahassee, FL 32312.

Cemetery Details

Oakland Cemetery

838 N Bronough St
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 9. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Service

NOV 10. 1:00 PM (ET)

Bradfordville First Baptist Church
6524 Thomasville Road
Tallahassee, FL 32312

Tribute Wall

VS

“ I had the privilege to work for Tommy for 18 years. He was the kindest person I know.

As much as he loved his Gators and politics, his true love was his family. He would just light up when he spoke about Henrietta or any of his children or grandchildren. I always told him I was waiting for him to adopt me just so I could join the annual Easter Egg Hunt. It sounded like so much fun and he looked forward to it every year.

I learned so much from him over the years. He wasn't just my boss but a true friend. I will always treasure my time with him and miss him always.

Henrietta, I just wanted to let you and the family to know that to him you all were his true legacy. I am truly sorry for your loss.

Vivian Swofford

Vivian Swofford - November 09, 2011 at 11:07 AM

GS

“ I knew Tommy all the years he was in Key West and we were good friends. Never saw him when he wasn't smiling. Tommy loved politics and was a good Republican. We carried the "Gators" on WKIZ radio in Key West and that was probably how we first met. He was such a pleasant person to be around! Was great having you as a friend Tommy Stevens. So sorry for your loss Henrietta.

Gayle D & Sue Swofford

Gayle D Swofford - November 09, 2011 at 09:50 AM



“ Tommy was such a kind and gentle man with a wonderful sense of humor. I first met Tommy and Henrietta through my parents as he became one of my fathers closest friends, and for awhile, his neighbor in the western mountains of North Carolina. I will miss his kindness, huge smile, humor and his laugh the most... Rest in Peace Tommy!

Holly Walsh - November 08, 2011 at 09:25 AM



“ Holly Walsh lit a candle in memory of Hon. Thomas A. "Tommy" Stevens Sr.



Holly Walsh - November 08, 2011 at 09:20 AM