



William Edward "Dick" Benton

January 7, 1927 - November 11, 2025

William Edward "Dick" Benton, 98, died November 11, 2025, at Big Bend Hospice House following a brief illness. He was predeceased by his wife of 72 years, Hazel Louise Houston Benton; his parents and his six siblings. He is survived by sons Dale Benton (Beth) and Rick; grandchildren Paige McKee (Patrick), Wade Benton (Maclain) and Earl Benton (Miranda); and great-grandsons Carson Benton, Web Benton, Benton McKee, Ralph Benton, Burke McKee and Liam Benton.

Dick moved to Tallahassee with his family in 1930 when he was 3 years old. He graduated from Leon High School in 1945, where he was captain of the school's first state championship baseball team (1944) and was a member of its Baseball Hall of Fame. He entered the US Army at the end of World War II and served in the occupation of Germany. After his military service he returned to Tallahassee and married Hazel in 1948. Two sons were born of the marriage. The family home was on Victory Garden Drive from 1954 until Dick and Hazel moved in 1998 to a home they built on Lake Ellen in Crawfordville, where they lived until Hazel's death in 2020. For the last 5 years Dick resided at Canterfield Assisted Living in Tallahassee.

Dick was a long-time employee of the Federal Correctional Institution in Tallahassee, retiring in 1977. Following his retirement, Dick expanded his independent sales business and assisted Hazel for 35 years in providing floral

decoration services for over 1,400 weddings and other special occasions in the area.

Dick and Hazel had a strong Christian faith and commitment to the Baptist churches where they worshiped, serving in various leadership positions. They were the consummate parents, grandparents and great-grandparents, who supported their family members in all endeavors and generously made their home and resources available to friends in need of support and assistance. Each of them had a positive and infectious disposition which welcomed strangers, friends and family with warmth, affection and good food. They were particularly accepting of young people and treated them with nonjudgmental respect, guidance and support. Many of those young people from decades gone by have been and still are lifelong friends.

Dick had a unique and magnetic personality, not to mention a wonderful sense of humor. You knew he was nearby when you could hear his singing and whistling on the street, in the grocery store or in the hallways of his customers. He would greet you with a large smile, hugs and kisses, wearing his trademark red Royal Stewart plaid cap. Then when he and you parted ways he would utter his signature farewell: "See you in the funny paper, page 1, full color." Dick Benton always left smiles on faces of those he encountered.

Hazel died during the pandemic and there was no formal memorial service to commemorate her life. As a result, the family will hold a joint memorial service for Dick and Hazel. The family will receive guests and friends on Sunday, November 16, 2025, at 2:00 pm in the chapel of Bevis Funeral Home, 200 John Knox Road, Tallahassee, Florida. The memorial service will begin in the chapel at 3:00 pm. The service will be livestreamed via Dick's obituary page. To view Hazel's obituary: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/tallahassee/name/hazel-benton-obituary?id=7466489>

A private burial will be held prior to the memorial service.

The family wishes to extend its appreciation to the caregivers at Canterfield Assisted Living, Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and Big Bend Hospice for assistance and care rendered to Dick.

Papa Dick, we will see you in the funny paper, page 1, full color!

Breanna Green of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the family with their arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Roselawn Cemetery

815 West Piedmont Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 16. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

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

Memorial Service

NOV 16. 3:00 PM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Service Footage



Bevis Funeral Home - November 16, 2025 at 05:09 PM



“ Hamp, Leslie & Meta Terry planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Edward "Dick" Benton.

Hamp, Leslie & Meta Terry - November 15, 2025 at 10:33 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William Edward "Dick" Benton.



November 15, 2025 at 10:33 AM

GM

“ Rick and Dale Benton are and will always be very fortunate men. Their father, Dick Benton, proved to be a friend to many of their friends. Mr. And Mrs. Benton always reached out with warmth and sincerity to the many young folks who were lucky enough to know them. There proved to be no generational gap, an admirable trait, indeed.

George Mannheimer
Roswell, GA

George R Mannheimer - November 14, 2025 at 02:03 PM

CT

Thanks for sharing George. I think my brother, Sammy Laing, would echo your response

Carole Terry - November 16, 2025 at 12:44 PM

OH

“ Always remember Mr. Benton giving me a new nickname, "Schimdlap" back the Victory Garden/Richardson road days....he'd still call me Schimdlap in later years when our paths crossed in the business world....Rick & Dale, my thoughts & prayers are with y'all...always cherish the memories y'all made together.... Otto

Otto Hough - November 14, 2025 at 07:26 AM

TF

“ The Laing Families purchased the Garden Bench - "Gone yet not forgotten..." for the family of William Edward "Dick" Benton.



The Laing Families - November 13, 2025 at 04:18 PM

KL

“ Hazel & Dick Benton-two of my favorite people in this world!!
Loving, kind, generous and so talented. Hazel blessed us with her
her floral talents and Dick with his wit and humor. We miss them at
First Baptist Crawfordville and send our heartfelt sympathy to their
family.

Kathy & Larry Lawhon - November 13, 2025 at 11:03 AM