



Thomas Aaron Crawley

November 12, 1928 - August 10, 2019

Thomas Aaron Crawley, 90, of Sale Creek, TN, passed away peacefully early Saturday morning, August 10, 2019 at CHI Memorial Hospital in Hixson after a brief illness. He was a member of Dayton First Baptist Church.

Tom was the son of the late Drewia A. & Nola Jordan Crawley of Sale Creek. He was born at the Crawley family farm on November 12, 1928. As a young man, he worked on the farm, a dairy operation and peach orchard. He was active in Future Farmers of America (FFA). At age sixteen, already president of the local 4H Club For Boys, Tom was selected from a field of 700 to represent Hamilton County at the National 4H Club Congress in Chicago.

In 1953, he began working for the Tennessee Game & Fish Commission (TWRA) as a wildlife agent in Grundy County. He was then transferred to Bradley County where he worked for several years. Later, he moved to Nashville where he served as Lieutenant, covering a ten county area. Some months later, he was transferred back to Bradley County as District Captain & Area Supervisor.

In 1967, Tom was named Tennessee Wildlife Officer of the Year while representing Tennessee at the Southeastern Wildlife Conference in New Orleans. For many years, he wrote an outdoor information column for the Cleveland Daily Banner as well as hosting an informational hunting & fishing

radio broadcast at both WBAC and WCLE in Cleveland for ten years. After his retirement in 1986, he left Cleveland to work on his father's farm, establishing a ten acre peach orchard. After his father's passing, he continued to manage and maintain more than one thousand peach trees in addition to an abundant tomato crop. And in 1997, Tom was inducted into the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity as a Renaissance Man in the TN Eta chapter.

Like his father before him, he was honored with an induction into The Hamilton County Agricultural Hall of Fame and was later also inducted into The Bradley County Agricultural Hall of Fame due to his passion for land, nature, and farming. Most recently, in April of 2019, the Tennessee State Senate passed a resolution sponsored by Senator Bo Watson and signed by Governor Bill Lee honoring Tom for his extensive lifetime achievements in agriculture.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, Drewia A. & Nola Jordan Crawley of Sale Creek, two brothers, Orval A. Crawley of Charleston, TN & Albert B. Crawley of Knoxville and their families respectively, his wife Virginia Lane Crawley, and his son Thomas (Tommy) E. Crawley.

He leaves his legacy to his survivors, daughter Judy Crawley Robinson of Cleveland, granddaughter Kris Crawley Cobb (Kevin) of Sale Creek, grandsons Lane E. Crawley (Kathleen) of Murfreesboro & Aaron M. Robinson (Ashley) of Old Hickory, TN, as well as beloved great-grandchildren Kully & Kolt Cobb of Sale Creek, Sean, Derrick & Corey Crawley of Murfreesboro, and Finlay Robinson of Old Hickory.

He was so very loved by many and will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Funeral services for Tom will be held Saturday afternoon at 5:00 p.m. in the

funeral home chapel with Pastor Milton Knox officiating. He will be laid to rest in Rhea Memory Gardens in Dayton.

Please share your memories of Tom on his online guest register at www.vanderwallfh.com.

The family is being cared for by the Vanderwall Funeral Home where they will receive friends Saturday after 2:00 p.m.

Cemetery Details

Rhea Memory Gardens

Hwy 27
Dayton, TN

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 17. 2:00 PM (ET)

Vanderwall Funeral Home
164 Maple St
Dayton, TN 37321
(423) 775-2662

Service

AUG 17. 5:00 PM (ET)

Vanderwall Funeral Home
164 Maple St
Dayton, TN 37321
(423) 775-2662

Tribute Wall

TS

“ *It was always fun talking about peaches with Tom Crawley. Such a friendly and welcoming man to me and others.*

Tom Stebbins

Tom Stebbins - August 19, 2019 at 12:03 PM

LJ

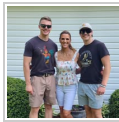
“ *It will be difficult to say good bye to "C Daddy". He was my boss, my mentor and my friend with the TWRA. He was the original 3300. To his family, thank you for sharing him with all the men of Area 33. He meant a great deal to all of us.*

Respectfully,

Les Jones

3300

Les Jones - August 17, 2019 at 02:25 PM



He loved his team, more than any of you will ever know. You all were much more like family!

Thank you for honoring his life!♥

Kris Crawley Cobb

Kris Cobb - August 31, 2019 at 07:15 AM

JC

“ *Mr. Crawley was a wonderful man of great character and integrity. Fond memories of him will live on through those of us who knew him. I pray God's peace and comfort for the family as you grieve this great loss.*

Joan Comeau - August 16, 2019 at 04:20 PM

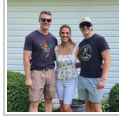
MB

“ I met Tom back when I was just out of high school going to Cleveland State many years ago in 1969. Every day he'd pass by the private men's dorm on Collegeview Drive headed out on patrol. One day I waved at him and he pulled over to speak to me. I was a bit concerned at first because a lot of us at the dorm like to hunt and fish and we had set up a "clandestine archery range" behind the dorm and thought he might have stopped to say something to us about it, as it was inside the city limits. But instead, he just stopped to say "good morning" to us kids; that was just Tom's way of getting to know folks and establishing a good rapport with the community. On that day, Tom became the first game warden that I had a conversation with.

Years later, after a short stint in the military and completing college with a degree in wildlife, I found myself as a Wildlife Tech on Hiwassee Refuge and began to see Tom regularly. When I put in for promotion to Wildlife Officer, Tom was on my interview board and I'm sure had a lot to do with my promotion coming through. Tom Crawley was perhaps the finest supervisor that ever served in TWRA. He was a true leader. He was not a company man, but he was a people person and a resource person. He was all about game and fish and the people who enjoyed and protected the resource. He had this natural ability to know when to be strict on the people and his men, and when not to be. In the 35 years I worked, I never once heard one ill word said of Tom, either by his peers, superiors, subordinates nor the general public. Thinking about it, I guess that Tom Crawley is the only man I know that I can say that about. People and supervisors like Tom only comes around only once in a life time, and thank goodness it was TWRA that he chose to work for. Tom, you will be missed..... Thank you for your mentoring.....God Bless.....and rest in peace.

Mike 3209

Mike Bailey - August 16, 2019 at 01:31 PM



Thank you, Mike!! We are so thankful to see so many folks sharing their stories, thoughts & love for this man that we called Granddaddy. I don't think my heart will never be the same & I am missing him every day!

Thank you for blessing us with your memories of him & honoring his life.

God bless 

Kris Crawley Cobb

Kris Cobb - August 31, 2019 at 07:23 AM



“ 40 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Vanderwall Funeral Home, Inc. - August 16, 2019 at 08:56 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *Thomas Aaron Crawley*.



August 15, 2019 at 06:14 PM

HW

“ *Hollis Williams purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Thomas Aaron Crawley.*



Hollis Williams - August 15, 2019 at 09:14 AM

JW

“ *A fine man. Sending prayers for Judy Crawley Robinson and the family .*

Jennifer Wattenbarger - August 14, 2019 at 09:04 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas Aaron Crawley.*



August 14, 2019 at 05:17 AM