

## Ralph "Tom" Penn

June 4, 1942 - November 18, 2020

Frankfort – Ralph Thomas “Tom” Penn, age 78, passed away at home on November 18, 2020, surrounded by his family. Tom fought cancer for several months, with Bluegrass Hospice Care providing him comfort during the final weeks.

Tom is survived by his wife of 33 years, Eleanor Cleveland Penn; his son, Roger Penn (Lora), of Fishers, Indiana and Martha Penn Blackburn (J.W.), of Frankfort; his bonus children, Laurie Thomas (Mark), of Cynthiana, Kentucky, Grant Cleveland (Quentin Eshleman), of Allentown, Pennsylvania, and Bill Mercer, of Memphis, Tennessee. He was also survived by his precious grandchildren, Madeline Penn, Julia Blackburn, Caroline Blackburn, Joe Thomas, and Hannah Thomas, as well as his children’s mother, Darla Snow Russell.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ralph and Edna Penn, daughter, Julie Michelle Penn, and grandparents, John B. and Mattie Penn.

Tom was born June 4, 1942, in Frankfort, and was a 1960 graduate of Franklin County High School and a 1964 graduate of Eastern Kentucky University with a Bachelor of Science Degree. He was employed for 15 years with Metropolitan Insurance with the Sturm Insurance Agency. While working for Metropolitan, he began his second career in home building. He also owned

Penn Carpets for over 30 years. In addition, raising livestock was a lifelong passion of his.

During his early twenties, he was a member of Jaycees, TPA Association, and was also a third-generation mason, and recently a member of Cattlemen's Association. He grew up in the First Baptist Church and was a longtime member of First Christian Church, where he served as Chair of the Property Committee, the Finance Committee, and as a Deacon.

While Tom was a devoted husband and father, he cherished his role as grandfather the most. His grandchildren will remember their "Granddaddy" as a jokester, teacher, playmate, and so much more.

Graveside services will be held at Frankfort Cemetery on Saturday, November 21, 2020, at 1:30 p.m. with Rev. Meredith Siler and Pastor Gary Brown officiating. He will be laid to rest next to his beloved daughter, Julie, and his parents.

Serving as pallbearers will be J.W. Blackburn, II, Mark Thomas, Joe Thomas, Grant Cleveland, Bill Mercer, and Quentin Eshleman.

The family requests memorial contributions to First Christian Church Education Fund, 316 Ann Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, Hospice Bluegrass Care, 643 Teton Trail, Frankfort, Kentucky and Journey Church, SOAR Ministry, Survivors of Abuse Restored, 1237 White Oak Road, Stamping Ground, Kentucky 40379.

Arrangements are under the direction of Harrod Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory.

# Cemetery Details

## Frankfort Cemetery

215 East Main Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 227-2403

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

NOV **21**. 1:30 PM (ET)

Frankfort Cemetery  
215 East Main Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 227-2403

# Tribute Wall

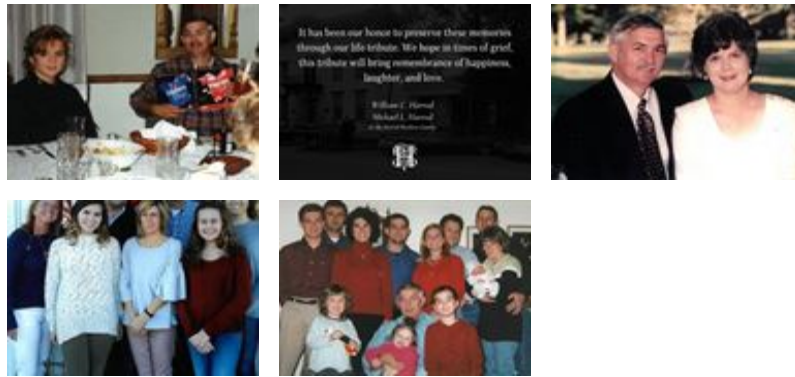


“ *Ralph "Tom" Penn*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *68 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Harrod Brothers Funeral Home - November 20, 2020 at 09:15 AM

TM

*Barbara and I are so sorry to learn of Tom's passing. Our deepest sympathies to Eleanor and family.*

Taylor Manley - November 20, 2020 at 05:05 PM

PM

“ *Patsy McChesney lit a candle in memory of Ralph "Tom" Penn*



Patsy McChesney - November 19, 2020 at 01:28 PM

PM

*So sorry for the loss of Tom. Prayers for the family.*

**Patsy McChesney** - November 19, 2020 at 01:30 PM

KG

*I am so sorry to hear of Tommy's passing. He worked with my dad, Murray Shearard, at Metropolitan for quite a few years. My sister and I both really liked it when he would come to the house. He was such a nice man. My deepest sympathy to his family.*

**Kathy Goin** - November 19, 2020 at 01:49 PM

RJ

*Tom was a likable fellow and I always enjoyed talking with him. I'm sorry that his family has to bear this burden of grief from losing him.*  
*Richard Jones*

**Richard Jones** - November 19, 2020 at 04:34 PM

AT

*Tommy will be greatly missed by family and friends. We met in high school and he eventually married my niece. I was lucky to have had him as part of my family. Prayers sent to Tommy's family.*

**Ann Triplett** - November 19, 2020 at 10:24 PM

DC

*At age 13, upon moving to Frankfort with my family, Tommy became my first friend. 63 years later we still enjoyed that friendship when he came to fish at my lake and traded eggs for fish! RIP Tommy.*

**Don Coffman** - November 20, 2020 at 03:53 PM