



## Dr. Thomas Wesley Pickel Jr.

October 13, 1927 - January 26, 2021

Dr. Thomas (Tom) Wesley Pickel, Jr. passed peacefully after a brief illness at the age of 93 with a love for God and family at Ft. Sanders Hospital on the 26th of January 2021 at 10:35 PM.

Tom was born on the 13th of October 1927 in Kingston, Tennessee, at the family home that stood at the corner of Race Street, where the present courthouse is located. His love of sports began at an early age, with his father coaching football at Roane County High. As a youth, Tom was a charter member of Boy Scout Troop 101. Tom's first real job in August of 1938 was carrying the Chattanooga Times. During the summer of 1941, he quit the paper route to work with his father on school construction. Tom's high school years were occupied with playing basketball and football and leading a jazz band. He served as the captain of the football and basketball teams his senior year. Upon graduation in 1945, he received a football scholarship to Milligan College.

At the end of his first year of college, he joined the Army and was transferred into the Army Air Corps, and most of his military service was spent in the Washington D.C. area working to complete the first government maps from aerial photographs of Antarctica.

After his discharge in January of 1948, Tom returned to college, entering Vanderbilt University where he met Jane Dunlap. While at Vanderbilt, he was a member of Tau Beta Pi and served as president during his senior year. He graduated with a degree in chemical engineering, and they were married on June 9, 1951, and then soon moved to Baytown, Texas, where he was employed as an engineer with the Humble Oil and Refining Company (Exxon Mobil). Though he found much success in Texas, he elected to move back to Kingston due to his love for this area. He felt it was the perfect place to raise his children and be close to family. Tom received a masters degree from the University of Tennessee in mathematics and his doctorate from the University of Illinois in mechanical engineering.

Tom was an active parent and grandparent, teaching Sunday school and participating in

other youth recreational programs. He valued and encouraged youth to achieve success in academics, athletics, and the arts. Tom worked with the American Seahorse Institute at Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina on desalination. In 1974, he was recognized by ORNL for his contributions to the coal conversion fields. He also served his community as the Republican County Chairman, as member of the Roane County School Board for two terms, as a member of the Kingston Rotary Club, served as chairman of the local United Way, and was a founding member of the Kingston Library foundation. He also served on a national committee that worked to develop Earthquake standards for designing nuclear facilities.

For eighty-one years, Tom was an active member at Bethel Presbyterian Church, where he also served as an Elder, taught Sunday school, and was active with youth. He set an example for equality and championed social justice and human rights for all. Tom served twice as the representative for the Presbytery of East Tennessee at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church semi-annual meeting.

After 32 years, he retired to the farm in December of 1991 where he enjoyed years spent with his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Preceded in death by:

Parents: father, T. Wesley Pickel (Delia) and mother, Mae Jackson Pickel

In-laws: Clyde P. and Christine Dunlap; brother-in-law: Clyde P. Dunlap, Jr. and Bettye Cloyd and Ruth Melton

sister, Margie Gulley; grandson, Jacob Murr

Survived by: wife of 69 years, Jane Dunlap Pickel; brother, Eugene Pickel

Children: daughter, Laura Dailey (Ted); son, Thomas Wesley Pickel III (Lisa); and daughter, Margaret Murr (Greg)

Grandchildren: Stephanie Wright (Jay); Janice White; Dr. Rebecca Pierce (Joe); Justin Murr (Ashley); Rachel Gallaher (Adam); Ellen Dailey; Jonathan Dailey (Abbie)

Great Grandchildren: Maggie Wright; Grayson, Gabriel, and Wesley Pierce; Mae Gallaher; Emerson Fox and Iris Murr

A graveside service will be held on Saturday, 30th of January 2021 at Lawnville Cemetery at 2:00 PM with the Reverend Wendy Neff officiating. The family asks for masks to be worn and social distancing guidelines to be followed.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Bethel Presbyterian Church building fund (203 S. Kentucky St. Kingston, TN 37763) or to Roane County High School with the designation for Kingston athletics (540 W. Cumberland St. Kingston, TN 37763).

Kyker Funeral Home of Kingston is serving the Pickel Family.

[www.kykerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.kykerfuneralhomes.com)

# Events

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**JAN**   **Graveside Service**                      02:00PM

**30**

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Lawnville Cemetery

1705 Lawnville Road, Kingston, TN, US, 37763

# Comments

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“ Jane, Laura, Ted, Rachel, Adam, Mae, Ellen, Rebecca, Joe, and boys, Jon, Abbie, Margaret, Greg, Justin and his wife:

I am truly saddened by Tom's death. He was always so kind to me, always met me with a smile, and always asked about Dan. I treasure the moments that I spent talking with Tom. He had done so many things in his life and was so intelligent, but he was always so humble and easy to talk with. I will surely miss seeing Tom at church - Bethel will never be the same. Our sincere condolences to all of you. Sending love and prayers for comfort and peace to surround you. Dan and Cathy McDowell

**Catherine McDowell** - February 09 at 05:39 PM

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“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Thomas Wesley Pickel Jr..



January 30 at 11:22 AM

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“ I am sorry to hear of Toms passing. I met Tom over 80yrs ago and my time spent with him has been very rewarding. He was dedicated to helping others and he did not have to tell you of his christian faith. It showed in his personality and his work. God bless his family and my he rest in peace. Roland Plemons

**Roland E Plemons** - January 29 at 11:10 PM

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“ I am sorry to hear of the loss of Tom. I last saw him and Jane at Bethel before Christmas when I stopped by to hang door wreaths. I first knew him and Jane as members of Bethel and will forever remember him as a strong influence in my life as he taught the Sunday School class during my high school years. Forever a wonderful person to our world.



**Pat Woods Steimer** - January 29 at 04:13 PM

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“ My condolences to his family. We are all suffering a great loss. Dr. Tom was such a great friend; asset to his church and to his community. We will all miss him.

**Don Coffmain** - January 29 at 02:44 PM

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“ Mr. Tom was such a fine person. I'm privileged to have gotten to meet him. My sincere condolences to Mrs. Jane and the rest of his family.

**Kim Henley Kennedy** - January 29 at 11:50 AM

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“ My deepest sympathy to all of the family. May God comfort each of you.



**Jan Jennings Stone** - January 29 at 11:37 AM

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“ I have so many fond memories of Mr Pickle. The Pickle family went our church. I remember his laugh and positive attitude and his smile. My thoughts and sympathy go out to the family. Tommy, I'm sorry that I can't express my sympathy in person. I remember that you came to moms receiving of friends. Sending my love to you and the family. Molly Collins

**Molly Collins** - January 29 at 09:49 AM

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“ Dowe joins me in sending our deepest and most sincere condolences to the Pickel family. The Pickel family influences are great and varied within our Dabbs and Grisham households and our Kingston community. Anne Grisham Dabbs

**anne dabbs** - January 29 at 09:25 AM

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“ My deepest condolences to all of the Pickle family on Wesley's passing..He was a lifelong family friend a delight to be around too and I always enjoyed hearing him tell stories of days gone past growing up in Kingston..Rest in Peace Wesley

**Jane Nash Ladd Petruzzi** - January 29 at 09:24 AM

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“ I'm so sorry to hear of Mr Pickel's passing. He was such a revered & committed member of our community. A giant of a man. My thoughts, hugs & prayers are with each of you at this time

**Gina Ross** - January 29 at 08:50 AM

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“ Gene and Rachel - I am so sorry for your loss. Few men will ever be as respected or admired in Roane County as your father and grandfather. He left a legacy and shoes that will be very difficult to fill. May it bring you peace to know you will see him again one day. You will be in my thoughts and prayers over the difficult days ahead.

**Terry Walden Johnson** - January 28 at 03:51 PM

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“ For a summer or two, Tom and I coached a Little League baseball team. One summer our team were league champions and were to play in the tournament where League rules required that coaches wear uniforms. Time restraints and limited budget left us only the option of appropriating the two biggest uniforms the team owned. We managed to get through the game or two before being eliminated without bursting any seams, but we certainly fell short of presenting a professional appearance!

David Stevenson - January 28 at 01:57 PM

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“ Rickey Gallaher lit a candle in memory of Dr. Thomas Wesley Pickel Jr.



rickey gallaher - January 28 at 10:07 AM