



Thomas Alva Austin

June 7, 1948 - November 22, 2021

Thomas Alva Austin, know as Tommy and lovingly referred to as “The Judge,” age 73 of Harriman, TN passed away peacefully on Monday, November 22, 2021.

Tommy was a native of Harriman and spent his life dedicating to the betterment of Roane County. Tommy was a graduate of Harriman High School, class of 1966. He was voted Mr. Harriman High School that year, a title that was extremely fitting. Tommy further continued his education after High School by attending Hiwassee College on a baseball scholarship where he earned an Associate in Arts degree, class of 1968. He then attended the University of Tennessee Knoxville, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Class of 1971. Additionally, Tommy obtained his Juris Doctor degree from Memphis State University of Law, Class of 1975.

In 1978, Tommy was appointed General Sessions Court Judge in Roane County. Tommy was the youngest person to ever be appointed to this position in the state of Tennessee. He continued serving the citizens of Roane County in this position for 28 years. As a Judge, Tommy was known to be both fair and compassionate. Many people appreciated his ability to approach cases as more gray and less black and white. He strived to treat people with equitability, while still gracefully enforcing the law.

In his spare time and retirement, Tommy was an avid golfer and member of Lakeside Golf Course. He actively participated in many tournaments at Lakeside and surrounding golf courses. He also loved playing recreationally. In addition to his golf passion, Tommy was passionate about politics, cars, antiques, rock and roll music, traveling, sports, and history. He could often be seen in his 1970 Dodge Challenger to which he drove frequently through Roane County, also one of his favorite pastimes. He also served as the Treasurer of the Men's Auxiliary for the Roane County Branch of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and was an active participant in many of the fundraisers and golf tournaments hosted by the organization.

Tommy is preceded in death by his parents Carl and Alva Austin and his brother, Art Austin. He is also preceded in death by many of his beloved friends.

Tommy dearly loved his children and they dearly loved him in return. They were his pride and joy. He diligently stayed connected to all four of his kids and supported them on their individual life paths. He is survived by his children, Thomas Kaine Austin and fiancé Fernanda Biselli, Ashley Austin Parson and husband Matt, Abbey Austin-Guadagnoli and husband Justin, and Carl Hartman Austin. He is also survived by his four Grandchildren; Thomas Collins Austin, Eloise Kate Austin, Nola Jaymes Parsons, and Isla Jane Guadagnoli.

There will be a Celebration of Life at a later date, anyone who knew Tommy knew him to be the life of the party and his children intend to celebrate the extraordinary life he created and lived. He will be dearly missed as he was not just a judge, he was THE judge and the court is now adjourned. Kyker Funeral Home of Harriman is serving the Austin Family.

Tribute Wall

FP

“ Tommy and I were friends in high school I was also a friend with Artie. Tommy and I had similar cars, except mine was red and we had a few little races, of course he usually won. He and Artie were both kind to me in school and I enjoyed knowing them, as well as their parents.

Faye Mullins Preston - December 29, 2021 at 02:13 AM

TP

“ Tommy was a friend like no other. He will remain a great man in my memory. I worked for his mom, dad, and Artie for many years. Tommy was one hell of a stand up man. I am sorry to lose such a friend.
Tommy Peters

Tommy Peters - December 08, 2021 at 08:39 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Thomas Alva Austin.



December 05, 2021 at 07:32 PM

RG

“ Our deepest sympathy to the family. Judge Austin was a good person to all, he will be missed. God bless you all.



Regina & Hattie Gallaher - December 05, 2021 at 06:36 PM

JN

“ *His compassion is what I remember most about him. God bless his memory!*

Jim Newman - December 05, 2021 at 11:57 AM



Michael Clift

“ *Tommy was a fraternity brother at UT and a good friend ... You will be missed brother ... Rest In Peace*

Michael Clift - December 02, 2021 at 09:09 PM

BM

“ *May God's blessings comfort the family during this time of bereavement. Such a beautiful family, the Austins. God bless you all.*

Betty Tarter Malloy - December 02, 2021 at 11:16 AM

BA

“ *I will always remember the times we played golf and Tommy (The Judge) had a joke to tell on every hole. It didn't matter if he had already told me the joke 10 times I still laughed! He will be missed and I know he is playing 18 in Heaven now.*

Bob Adkins

Bob Adkins - December 02, 2021 at 09:26 AM



“ I was very sorry to hear of the passing of Tommy. He was a good person and very kindhearted, would help anyone, if he could. Prayers for his children, may God give them grace and understanding during this time of grief.

Sincerely,
Darlene Bowers Prewitt

Darlene Prewitt - December 02, 2021 at 07:50 AM



“ I will miss you Judge all the funny stories and jokes we shared at Wild Wings. Fly high my dear friend fly high.
Nancy Golden

Nancy Golden - December 02, 2021 at 07:03 AM



“ May God Bless and keep this family during this difficult time. Judge Austin was a very kindhearted person.



Carolyn Clemmons - December 02, 2021 at 02:56 AM



“ Sharon Wilson lit a candle in memory of Thomas Alva Austin



Sharon Wilson - December 01, 2021 at 10:28 PM

SJ

“ *Sissy Cline Jenkins lit a candle in memory of Thomas Alva Austin*



Sissy Cline Jenkins - December 01, 2021 at 09:38 PM

MB

“ *RIP Judge Austin. May your family have peace in knowing you had many people that respect you and your entire family.*



Melinda Bertram - December 01, 2021 at 09:04 PM

AC

“ *Tommy was very kind to me and was always respectful. He will be missed . Many prayers for his children and the rest of his family.*

Angelia Cox - December 01, 2021 at 08:01 PM

JC

“ *I am so sorry for the loss of Judge Austin. My family and I will be keeping the family in our prayers.*

Jessica Cofer and Family

Jessica Cofer - December 01, 2021 at 06:59 PM

JJ

“ *He was a fine man always had time for you will be missed rest in peace Judge Austin*

Johnny Johnson - December 01, 2021 at 06:16 PM