

Thomas Edward Boyce



Thomas Edward Boyce was a faithful father and husband, loyal alumnus of Clemson University, then Clemson A&M College, and member of First Baptist Church in Greensboro, NC. For most of his 85 years he lived in Greensboro, North Carolina but spent his last years in Cary. Known to his family and loved ones as Tommie, his professional associates and adult friends as Tom, and to his beloved grandchildren as Grandy, he was welcomed home to be with Jesus his savior, and Barbara, the love of his life, on Tuesday, May 19, 2020.

Tommie was the firstborn son of Marion and Virginia Boyce, born at their home in Joanna, South Carolina on July 19, 1934.

Tommie had one younger brother, Ray, who is also deceased. Growing up in Joanna, Tommie worked with his parents in the mill across the street from their home and graduated from Clinton High School in 1952. Tommie attended Clemson A&M College where he fell in love with the Clemson Tigers, received a Bachelor's degree in Textile Engineering, and graduated at the top of his class in 1956. He earned his Master's from the University of Virginia's Institute of Textile Technology in 1958.

Tom served as an officer in the United States Army after graduation, where he tested cloth and materials for uniforms and gear that would be used in extreme weather. On visits home to Joanna, Tom met Barbara Ann Johnson at First Baptist Church in Joanna, where she and Tommie began dating. Tommie and Barbara were married there on August 15, 1965. Barbara grew up in the neighboring community of Kinards and graduated from Newberry College.

Tommie and Barbara are survived by their two girls, Amy Rebecca Boyce (now Louthan) born September 23, 1968, and Emily Elizabeth Boyce (now White) born September 4, 1972. They settled with their daughters in Greensboro, North Carolina, while never forgetting their South Carolina roots. Many weekends were spent on the farm in Kinards, with Sunday lunches in Joanna and fall Saturdays in Clemson. Tommie's love for and loyalty to Clemson football was rooted in devotion, not performance, though the menu for post-game meals for the family widened considerably whenever Clemson won! Clemson football games remain among the first living memories of both Amy and Emily.