



## Thomas Ben Douglass Jr.

June 7, 1934 - July 29, 2021

Thomas Ben Douglass Jr passed into his eternal home Thursday, July 29, 2021 in Knoxville, TN surrounded by his loving family.

Ben was born June 7th, 1934 into the home of Ben And Dorothy Douglass and attended high school in Lexington, Tennessee. After his first year of college he joined the army and was stationed in Germany where he served as a cryptographer. Returning from his two year overseas tour he earned a degree in agriculture from the University of Tennessee Knoxville and then returned to Lexington where he lived the great majority of his 87 years.

Ben met and married Carolyn Gaba of Alamo while in college and from that marriage came three children: Andy, Jim and Molly. He along with his father Ben Douglass, Sr. owned and operated Lexington Pure Milk Company until selling the business to Turner Dairies in 1973. He then traveled much of west Tennessee as a state dairy inspector.

After his divorce and second marriage to the former Bette Bailey, Ben went to work with her father Edward Bailey at the old Bailey Sawmill. Ben helped raise Bette's son from her first marriage, Cary who with the other Douglass children count Ben a major influence in their lives.

Ben retired very early from work in his late 40s and pursued a life of helping family members in their elderly years and resided almost 40 years on the family farm of his uncle Hollis and aunt Alton Lewis of Lexington serving as it's chief caretaker.

Ben lived and loved a simple life, gardening, camping, tinkering and reading. He enjoyed keeping his dogs a succession of which came under his care during Ben's long life. Where Ben went, the dog went. His black labs Sis, Buck, Abe and Ike were part of this line and his Daisy who wandered onto his doorstep was his last.

Ben was not a very religious man most of his life having stopped attending his home First Methodist Church though he was it's oldest member on the roles having been baptized and joining the church as a young child. But in his final days, his family and others having spoken with him repeatedly of his coming appointment with his Maker and how Christ had died for the payment of our sins, we not being able to pay and Christ having to die for this purpose and God having raised Christ from the dead on the third day to show He was indeed the payment, dad said "I trust Christ..." being one of the few words he was able to speak in his last days. We trust dad was indeed trying to lift his

heart toward the Lord, saying as the thief crucified alongside Jesus, "Remember me...".

Ben is survived by his first wife Carolyn Stripling, his brother Howard Douglass of Lexington, his son, Andrew (Veronica) Douglass of Knoxville and grandchildren John (Jennifer), Karen and Katie (David Cochran) and great grandchildren Easton and Wilder Douglass of Knoxville, his son Jim Douglass (Cindy) and grandchildren Samantha and Thomas Andrew of Florence, Alabama, his daughter Molly (Jim Elkins) and grandchildren Ruthie, Carly and Abby (Jimmy Ratliff) and great grandchildren Levi and Silas Ratliff, his stepson Cary (Karin) Beane of St. Augustine, Florida and grandchildren Megan (Matthew) Slack, Mara Beane, Noah Beane and Amanda Beane.

He was preceded in death by his father Ben Douglass, his mother Dorothy Pope Douglass, his sister Nancy Hinson and his second wife Bette Douglass.

Visitation with family will be at Reed Chapel Funeral Home Saturday, August 7th from 2-4pm with a funeral procession leaving from the Reed's Chapel at 4pm for Rock Springs Cemetery, Wildersville, Tennessee where a graveside service will be held. A reception will be held immediately afterwards at the home of Howard and Lana Douglass.

# Tribute Wall

BH

“ *Bonnie & Jerry Haywood lit a candle in memory of Thomas Ben Douglass Jr.*



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**Bonnie & Jerry Haywood** - August 03, 2021 at 11:03 AM

BH

“ *In memory of Ben Douglas JR! Prayers for the family & friends* ☩

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**Bonnie & Jerry Haywood** - August 03, 2021 at 11:02 AM

LE

“ *Linda Elam lit a candle in memory of Thomas Ben Douglass Jr.*



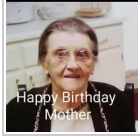
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**Linda Elam** - August 01, 2021 at 11:33 PM

DD

“ *Donna Darrough lit a candle in memory of Thomas Ben Douglass Jr.*



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**Donna Darrough** - August 01, 2021 at 12:26 AM



“ *Sandra Maness lit a candle in memory of Thomas Ben Douglass Jr.*



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**Sandra Maness** - July 31, 2021 at 06:28 PM

RS

“ *Rhonda Sanders sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas Ben Douglass Jr.*



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**Rhonda Sanders** - July 31, 2021 at 02:40 PM

KG

“ *Kim Gilbert lit a candle in memory of Thomas Ben Douglass Jr.*



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**Kim Gilbert** - July 31, 2021 at 12:51 PM

IF

“ *So sorry for your loss. Prayers for the family*

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**imogene frye** - July 31, 2021 at 12:18 PM

IF

“ *Imogene Frye lit a candle in memory of Thomas Ben Douglass Jr.*



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**imogene frye** - July 31, 2021 at 12:16 PM

DE

“ *My sincere condolences to the family, my thoughts and prayers are with each of you at this time of loss.  
May our Heavenly Father give strength and peace that surpass all understand doing your time of loss.*



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**Denise Ellis** - July 31, 2021 at 11:35 AM

EA

“ *Eddie And Lori Akins lit a candle in memory of Thomas Ben Douglass Jr.*



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**Eddie and Lori Akins** - July 31, 2021 at 11:27 AM