

Frank Thomas Baker, Jr.

1948 – 2025



Frank Thomas Baker, Jr. – known to all who loved him as “Tommy” – passed away at UAB Hospital in Birmingham, Alabama,

with his daughter Erin by his side. He was 76 years old.

Born in Birmingham, Alabama, and raised on Baker & Son’s Dairy Farm, Tommy grew up learning the values of hard work, service, and devotion to family – principles that guided him throughout his life.

A proud and decorated veteran, Tommy served his country with distinction as a Colonel in the United States Army. His leadership and steadfast commitment were a reflection of his deep love for others and his calling to serve. Even after retirement, his sense of duty never waned – it simply shifted to faith, family, and community.

Tommy was a man of unwavering faith. As a devoted Baptist Christian, he loved to share the Gospel and saw every opportunity to serve as a way to reflect God’s love. He served as a deacon and Sunday School teacher at Westwood Baptist Church and other churches. His life was a living testimony – bold, compassionate,

and filled with the joy of fellowship. Whether offering a kind word or a helping hand, Tommy lived to lift others up.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Deleen Baker; his daughters, Amy Upchurch (Shawn) and Erin Cullop (Jared); and his treasured grandchildren, Evin and Nora Upchurch, and Elias, Joseph, Madeline, and Scarlet Cullop. He is also survived by his sister, Tisia Baker; brother, James Baker (Merrie); nephews, Eric Lovelady (Barbara), and Ben Lovelady;

and nieces, Abby McNeal (Andrew), Annalee Hunt (Randall), Beth Baker (Chris Arnold), and Brooke Ellis (Ron).

Tommy was preceded in death by his grandparents, Margaret and Oren Eddings and John Frank and Sadie Baker; his parents, Frank and Virginia Baker; and his brother, John Baker.

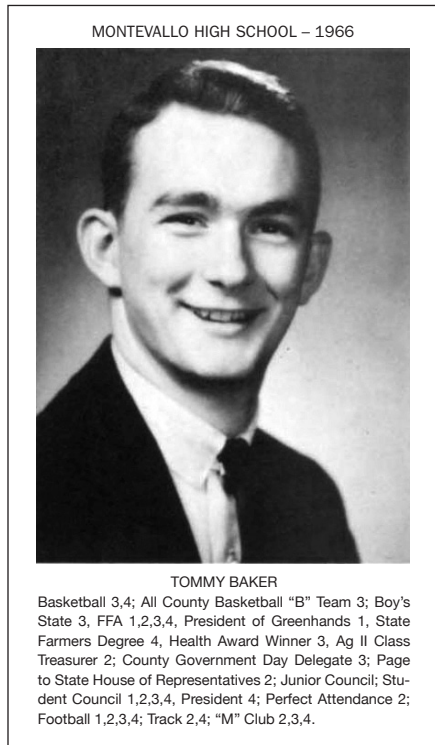
His presence was larger than life – his voice, his laughter, and most of all, his love. He never met a stranger and never missed a chance to show up for the people he cared about.

A visitation for Tommy will be held Saturday, April 12, 2025 from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM at Rockco Funeral Home (Montevallo), 3715 Highway 25, Montevallo, AL 35115, with the funeral service to begin at 2:00 PM. Pastor Scott Morton will officiate. He will be laid to rest at Montevallo City Cemetery with a reception to follow at Rockco Funeral Home (Montevallo) until 5:00 PM.

Condolences and memorial donations may be sent to the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation at www.pulmonaryfibrosis.org/get-involved/ways-to-give/tribute-program.

God bless him for his love, faith and life of service. We will miss him, but he is dancing with the angels and singing in the heavenly choir. Amen.

Hooah!



Tommy Baker did not become a member of the Montevallo Historical Society until 2024, but he became an integral part of our organization and one of our favorite people when he volunteered to participate in the first Wreaths Across America event held at Montevallo City Cemetery in 2022. Every December, Wreaths Across America encourages groups across the United States to unite in honoring veterans buried in local cemeteries by laying special holiday wreaths on their graves. Veterans such as Tommy volunteer to represent the various branches of the American armed forces in a solemn ceremony at the beginning of the event. Tommy was one of eight veterans who came to the cemetery to perform this task. They all then joined everyone else in attendance to lay more than 300 wreaths on veterans graves that had been identified for the honor. Tommy impressed everyone with his formal military bearing, his white gloves and spit-shined shoes, and the dedication and gratitude he exhibited toward each veterans grave he visited. Tommy came back for the event in 2023 and 2024 and we fully expected to be able to count on him for years to come. Sadly, that would not be the case due to his unexpected passing this past spring.