



## Tom Dees

February 11, 1965 - February 9, 2023

We have lost a friend and champion of the people. Thomas Jay Dees passed away two days short of his 58th birthday on February 9, 2023, after an illness.

Tom was an Emmy-award winning reporter for 27 years with WHBQ-TV FOX13 in Memphis. During that time he earned the respect and love of viewers for his moving and in-depth stories about people and places in the Mid-South. One viewer described him as a "champion for charities, a supporter of small businesses and a lover of food and music."

Tom's super power was his ability to tell someone's story with compassion and dignity. But first and foremost, Tom was a husband, father and son. His wife Cathy and three children were his pride and joy.

Born in Indiana, Tom and his family moved frequently as his father served as a navigator in the US Air Force. Tom graduated high school in Louisiana, where he was a state cross country champion. But Mississippi was home. Tom was a proud and loyal Mississippi State Bulldog. He graduated from MSU in 1987, and that's where he met Cathy.

He started his career in Tupelo at WTVA as a videographer and editor. Tom joined FOX13 as a reporter in November of 1995. Along the way, Tom earned three Emmy Awards for his reporting. Over the years he covered stories

ranging from his Road Patrol "Drive-Don't Drive" segments, the 2008 Presidential debate at the University of Mississippi to stories featuring local restaurants and real people doing amazing things. He is perhaps best known for his extensive coverage of North Mississippi after earning the trust of people and leaders who counted on him to share their stories.

Tom loved his sidekick Belle. A loyal friend to the end, she was his protector and constant companion. Tom loved cooking, playing guitar, fishing, Tybee Island Beach, Mardi Gras and eating breakfast every Saturday morning at Neighborhood Grill with Mr. Jack (Jackie Marr). He was quick with a self-deprecating quip and could unleash a stream of puns like no one else. He was a tireless and loyal friend and colleague. Many of us came to rely on reading his "deep reflections" shared every Sunday morning on Facebook. Recently, Tom's post shared how the Cody Johnson song "Til you Can't" reminded him that life is about "running at it and realizing you gotta love and live like the clock is ticking." That's what Tom did with every fiber of his being.

To know Tom was to love Tom. That's why his passing hurts so bad.

Tom is preceded in death by his father, Jay Dees. He is survived by his mother Lori and brother Scott (Edie). Tom is also survived by his wife of nearly 34 years, Cathy (Guice) Dees and three children: Ally (Blake), Amelia (Jordan) and Austin. He is also survived by his nephews Starnes and Chris and his nieces Zsuzanne and Mary.

Funeral arrangements are as follows: Visitation is Friday, February 17, from 5-7 p.m. at Coleman Funeral Home, 6815 Parkview Boulevard, Olive Branch, MS. Funeral services are Saturday, February 18, at 3 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 9155 Highland Street, Olive Branch, MS.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Ronald McDonald House

Charities at [www.rmhc.org](http://www.rmhc.org).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 17. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Coleman Funeral Home of Olive Branch  
6815 Parkview Boulevard  
Olive Branch, MS 38654  
(662) 893-3900  
info@colemanfuneralhome.com  
<http://www.colemanfuneralhomeob.com>

## Funeral Service

FEB 18. 3:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Olive Branch  
9155 Highland Street  
Olive Branch, MS 38654

# Tribute Wall



“ Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford created a Tribute Video in memory of Tom Dees



Coleman Funeral Home - February 15, 2023 at 05:26 PM

MJ

*Tom Dees, we grew to know and to love you in no time at all, you n yours are our family, for ever. We're blessed to have had your bright sweet soul, staunch character, and endless random comedy in our lives. We know ya gone fishin', or pickin' the blues, or under your front awning of your airstream on the Perdido backwaters.... till we BBQ again, we will take best care of your darling, and your 3 perfect children, Team Dees. We love you Tom Dees, and we sure do mean it. ♡ Gus n Marni, Australia.*

Marni Jones - February 16, 2023 at 05:44 AM

KE

*Tom Dees, we grew to know and to love you in no time at all, you n yours are our family, for ever. We're blessed to have had your bright sweet soul, staunch character, and endless random comedy in our lives. We know ya gone fishin', or pickin' the blues, or under your front awning of your airstream on the Perdido backwaters.... till we BBQ again, we will take best care of your darling, and your 3 perfect children, Team Dees. We love you Tom Dees, and we sure do mean it for real,  
we gonna love u and miss u so much bro #Tom dees 4 ever 🥹🥹🥹🥹  
🥹🥹🥹.*

Kennedy - June 24, 2025 at 06:17 PM



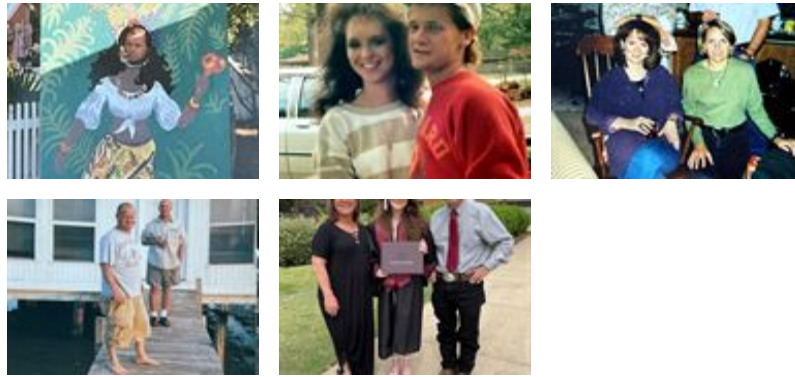
“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Tom Dees.* ”



February 16, 2023 at 08:17 AM



“ *100 files added to the album Life Tributes* ”



**Coleman Funeral Home** - February 15, 2023 at 05:24 PM



“ *The Imagicomm Communications Team purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Tom Dees.* ”



**The Imagicomm Communications Team** - February 15, 2023 at 10:34 AM



“ *So sorry to hear. I did some of my most memorable work with Tom.* ”

**Rocky Dailey** - February 15, 2023 at 10:02 AM

WD

“ Special thoughts and prayers for a very Special Friend of the OB HOOT... 🤔👥✔️🙏

Wendell Davis - February 15, 2023 at 02:44 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Tom Dees.



February 15, 2023 at 01:21 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Tom Dees.



February 13, 2023 at 02:41 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Tom Dees.



February 13, 2023 at 08:02 AM

KB

“ Tom was a friend. He always had a positive message when I needed it. He was kind and funny and hated to see anyone treated unfairly. I will miss him. I admired you, Tom. Rest easy till we see you again.

Kimberlee Bateman - February 11, 2023 at 10:33 PM

GB

“ Always loved watching Tom on channel 13 Always thought of him as a passionate man who told the story with greatness. Tom will miss you rest in peace



Glendale and Ann Baggett - February 11, 2023 at 07:06 PM

AG

“ My condolences goes out to the family and friends,he will be deeply missed,when Tom did a story he did it with his heart and soul,rest on it was time to be a reporter for the Lord 🙏🙏🙏

Arquilla Grant - February 11, 2023 at 06:46 PM

BT

“ Sending love hugs and prayers to the family.Rest well Mr.Dees



Brook Tucker - February 11, 2023 at 06:36 PM

BB

“ *He was a very good man and he did a good job at everything he did and I will miss seeing him and he was always doing something*



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**Betsy Brown** - February 11, 2023 at 12:50 PM

JB

“ *So deeply saddened when I heard this news. As a Memphis native and now a long time Desoto County resident, Tom was my "go to" - what a talent. Much love and many prayers to this dear family...*



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**Jeff Barnes** - February 10, 2023 at 03:22 PM