



## Tommy Dale Tolleson PhD

May 15, 1949 - March 1, 2021

Thomas Dale Tolleson PhD, faithful Christian, loving husband, adoring father and grandfather, devoted son, treasured brother, friend and retired professor, passed from this life in the arms of his family on March 1, 2021, after an extended illness.

Visitation: 7 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, March 5, 2021 at Way of Life, UPC, Hurst, TX, 1332 Yates Drive, Hurst, TX, 75063, where funeral services will be conducted at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 6, 2021. Burial will follow at Emerald Hills Memorial Park in Kennedale, TX.

Thomas Dale Tolleson was born May 15, 1949, to T.W. and Dale Tolleson, in Jackson, MS. He grew up in Pearl, MS, and graduated from Pearl High School.

As a young boy, he became interested in learning to play the piano. The first piano his father bought him was an old upright. Tommy was a little disappointed in it, but his dad told him if he practiced and kept learning he would buy him a new piano. So he did, and his dad bought him a new Baldwin Acrosonic which is still in his mother's house.

After High School, he attended Mississippi College in Clinton, MS, earning a B.S. in Accounting in 1971. He then went to study gospel music at Gateway College of Evangelism in St. Louis, MO. While at Gateway, he served as one of the pianists for the college choir, chorale and Men's Quartet. He graduated in 1974 and returned to Jackson to teach music at Jackson College of Ministries (JCM) for a year.

While in Jackson, he met the love of his life, Vicki Willhoite, and they married on September 10, 1976. Tommy had moved to Shreveport, Louisiana to be Minister of Music at King's Temple United Pentecostal Church, and he and Vicki lived there for two years.

Tommy then served as Minister of Music and Christian School Administrator for several years in Augusta, GA and Cincinnati, OH.

In 1984, Tommy returned to college and earned an Master of Business Administration at

Augusta College in Augusta, GA. Their son, Chaden, was born during this time. After earning his MBA, Tommy began teaching accounting at Augusta College. He then decided to pursue a doctorate degree, so they relocated to Denton, TX, where he attended the University of North Texas and completed his PhD in accounting in 1996. He then became a professor of accounting at Texas Wesleyan University in Ft. Worth, TX in 1997.

In 2014, he was diagnosed with Leukemia and received a bone marrow stem cell transplant with stem cells donated by his sister, Barbara. He recovered and was doing well for a couple of years before he began having other medical issues, including non-alcoholic cirrhosis of the liver and bronchiectasis in the lungs. His health continued to decline and he retired in January, 2020. While teaching at Texas Wesleyan, he was also involved in the music ministry of his church, Way of Life UPC in Hurst.

He is survived by his wife, Vicki, son Chaden (wife Jhenyfer), granddaughter Isabella, who was the light of his life, his mother, Dale, and his sister, Barbara, and numerous cousins, aunts, niece and nephews, and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, the late T.W. Tolleson.

Serving as pallbearers will be Michael Cothran, Jonathan Little, Landon McKeehan, Malcom Sumrall, Colby Whitstine and Shawn Willioite.

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

MAR 5. 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM.

Way of Life UPC

## Funeral Service

MAR 6. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM.

Way of Life UPC

## Graveside Service

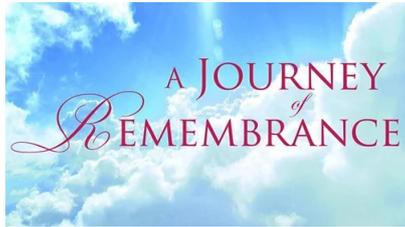
MAR 6. 3:30 PM - 4:00 PM.

Emerald Hills Memorial Park

# Tribute Wall



“ Guerrero - Dean Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Tommy Dale Tolleson PhD



Guerrero - Dean Funeral Home - March 05, 2021 at 04:45 PM

BI

*Such a beautiful and sweet tribute to a sweet funny friend.*

billie - March 08, 2021 at 06:13 PM

JA

*Tommy was my cousin and even though he was alot older than me he was a great guy*

Jennifer Tolleson Angelini - April 10, 2021 at 11:51 PM

JV

“ My first exposure to Dr. T came with a series of videos to prep us students for Intermediate Accounting I along with Dr. Webb. I always remember watching his videos and thinking, “oh my, I think this guy might be a difficult professor.” Lol, and sure enough he was. But as the semesters went on and the more I got to know him, he became someone I wanted to model myself after. Dr. T’s courses were never difficult for the sake of being difficult, he was difficult because he cared deeply for what he did, and cared deeply for how his students learned. Dr. T was a caring man, I came in at the very tail end of his career in fall of 2017 and my last semester with him was fall of 2019, and although his health was deteriorating his spirit most definitely wasn’t. He has inspired me to become the professional I am today, and why I’m “ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS” double checking my work. I love Dr. T, may he Rest In Peace always.

-Johnny S. Vasquez

Johnny S. Vasquez - March 22, 2021 at 12:27 PM

JK

“ Dr. Tolleson was my one of my accounting professors at Texas Wesleyan. He was a great teacher who had a genuine passion for accounting and an amazing ability to take complex accounting concepts and explain them in simple, relatable terms. My fondest memories of Dr. T, however, are not in the classroom but rather on a personal level when he took the time to reach out to me on several occasions to make sure that I was doing ok (and at a time when I very much needed to hear words of guidance and encouragement). He will truly be missed.

--Junaid Khan

Junaid Khan - March 18, 2021 at 11:55 AM

CW

“ I went to school with Tommy he always had a smile on his face, he was a very sweet and nice classmate, willing to help anyone. I know he will be missed by his family.

Carol Tisdale Wimberly

Carol Tisdale Wimberly - March 10, 2021 at 01:26 PM

SH

“ Heaven has gained a new choir member. It is our loss. He was a wonderful friend, professor and mentor to our faculty and students at Texas Wesleyan. He made us all feel special. To his family, please know that he will be missed.

Sandy Hart, School of Business

Sandra Hile Hart - March 06, 2021 at 10:47 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Tommy Dale Tolleson PhD.



March 05, 2021 at 07:15 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Tommy Dale Tolleson PhD.



March 05, 2021 at 05:33 PM



“ 77 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Guerrero - Dean Funeral Home - March 05, 2021 at 04:38 PM



“ *Serene Retreat* was purchased for the family of Tommy Dale Tolleson PhD.



March 05, 2021 at 04:33 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Tommy Dale Tolleson PhD.



March 05, 2021 at 02:39 PM



“ 3 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Michelle McEacharn - March 05, 2021 at 11:59 AM

FF

“ From Your FBD Family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Tommy Dale Tolleson PhD.



From Your FBD Family - March 05, 2021 at 11:27 AM

BM

“ I started at Texas Wesleyan in the fall of 1995. Tom joined soon after and was always a friendly face. He was a strong supporter of shared governance and often talked to me about matters that concerned him. I have so many good memories of serving on committees where he was a voice for the faculty.

Dr. Brenda Taylor Matthews

Brenda Taylor Matthews - March 05, 2021 at 11:18 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Tommy Dale Tolleson PhD.



March 05, 2021 at 10:49 AM

MM

“ Michelle & Victoria McEacharn purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Tommy Dale Tolleson PhD.



Michelle & Victoria McEacharn - March 05, 2021 at 10:28 AM

HQ

“ Tom was dedicated to his students and wanted students to always do their best. He was an excellent instructor and made his accounting class lectures interesting. He also sang “For he’s a jolly good fellow” and “Happy Birthday” on numerous occasions which made each event that much more special. Tom will be greatly missed.

Hector Quintanilla

hector quintanilla - March 05, 2021 at 09:00 AM

CE

“ I remember those years as our music director, he was so talented! We had a big choir @ the time he was there, he helped our music dept. so much. I am so sorry to hear of his passing 😞 Prayers for all the family 😞❤️🙏



Collis Ezell - March 05, 2021 at 01:26 AM

RL

“ I first met Dr. Tolleson when I came to the university as an adjunct instructor. He was a very gracious individual, warm, inviting, and enjoyable to talk with. He would invite me to stop by and visit on multiple topics. He would stop by and watch me teach, and many times would offer some excellent advice. I appreciated him very much. I know he loved his Lord and his family. My life is a little richer today because I crossed paths with Dr. Tolleson. I know he was supportive of his students and celebrated their success. His family will be in our thoughts and prayers.

Randy Lockhart - March 04, 2021 at 08:16 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Tommy Dale Tolleson PhD.



March 04, 2021 at 07:43 PM

RE

“ I worked with Tom in the School of Business. Tom was always helpful in giving of his time. He was dedicated to his work and his God. He will be missed by his friends that include his students. My sincere condolences to his family.

Rod Erakovich - March 04, 2021 at 07:34 PM

TK

“ I came to TWU in 2012 and first met Dr. Tolleson serving on a committee. I can't think of anyone who made me feel more welcome and valuable. I'm so sorry for your loss, Dr. Terri Kane.

Terri Kane - March 04, 2021 at 02:44 PM

DH

“ When we moved to Jackson, MS in 1970 Tommy lived a few streets down from our house and he was one of the first people I met at our new church. He helped me make the transition from “new girl” to one of the gang in a matter of days. Oh the things we did -such as driving my dad’s truck from our house to his house completely in FIRST gear because he assured me he could drive a “shift car” which WAS true. I just didn’t know he meant it would only be in first gear. 🙄👩 And the first and LAST time I ever rolled a house with toilet paper. And during the getaway I stepped in a hole and Tommy and someone else drug me out and to the car by my arms. Our last memorable escapade was after he and Vicki married and we decided to drive to St.Louis to our friend, Jerolyn’s, wedding. We foolishly left for Dallas after the wedding, planning to stop along the way for the night. We hadn’t anticipated every motel in Arkansas being booked. At about 2 a.m. we pulled off the Interstate and drove into the town of Arkadelphia where we found an old motor court hotel with 2 rooms. I promise the rooms were \$8 each and the rooms looked like \$8 - straight out of a horror movie. Vicky and Tommy had an inside room and my room opened to the outside but backed up to their room. I tried to push the dresser up to the door and the carpet ripped and came with it. The sheets were as thin as onion skins. I got on the bed with my clothes and shoes on and eyes WIDE OPEN. People came and went all night in the parking lot- sometimes laughing, sometimes shouting and arguing. Finally morning came and after I complained to Tommy about my harrowing night he admitted that once he thought he heard me pounding on the wall for help, but he told Vicki, “ if she really needs help she will pound harder!” What a friend!! Truly loved and missed.  
Delphine Welch Hammer

Delphine Welch Hammer - March 04, 2021 at 02:23 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Tommy Dale Tolleson PhD.



March 04, 2021 at 12:37 PM

NP

“ Dr. Tolleson was a beloved figure at TXWES. He was gracious and kind, and we enjoyed his visits to our office (CETL). -- Natalie Parker

Natalie Parker - March 04, 2021 at 11:46 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Tommy Dale Tolleson PhD.



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March 03, 2021 at 06:01 PM