



Mr Thomas Marion Betts Jr.

December 10, 1931 - July 28, 2015

Thomas Marion Betts, Jr. died Tuesday, July 28, 2015. Born in Quincy, FL in 1931, Mr. Betts was a 1950 graduate of Gadsden County High School. He attended Florida State University from 1950 to 1951 and became a member of the National Guard before enlisting in the US Army in 1952. He served in the Korean War and was commissioned an officer in 1952.

After receiving an honorable discharge in 1953 he married his loving wife Patricia Brown, whom he met on a blind date in 1954. He joined the Florida Highway Patrol in 1957 and spent 28 years serving his State and Nation, retiring as a Major in 1983. He continued his service in the National Guard, retiring in 1980 after 31 years of service as a Lieutenant Colonel. Mr. Betts was also a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS and the FBI National Academy in Washington, DC.

He and Patty have five children: Monti Brown and husband Ian, Thomas Betts III and wife Dee, Patrick Betts, Susan Davis and husband Emory, Matthew Betts and wife Dana; fourteen grandchildren: Erin Brown Horne, Caitlin Brown Smith, Molly Brown Cawthon, Jason Betts, Lily Betts Starr, Thomas Betts IV, Brooks Betts, Colson Betts, Sean Betts, Garth Betts, Melissa Davis Lewis, Kyle Davis, Macayle Betts Kiger, and Sawyer Betts; six great-grandchildren: Ashlyn Horne, Avery Horne, Ansley Smith, Liv Betts, Quinn Betts, and Carter Lewis.

He loved God, family, and country. He loved to fish, hunt, and watch FSU football.

Graveside memorial services will be 10:00 AM Saturday, August 1, 2015 at Tallahassee Memory Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to
Big Bend Hospice
1723 Mahan Center Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32308

Expressions of sympathy may be conveyed at www.abbeyfh.com.

Cemetery Details

Tallahassee Memory Gardens

4037 North Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 562-1518
<https://www.abbeyfh.com/>

Previous Events

Service

AUG 1. 10:00 AM (ET)

Tallahassee Memory Gardens
4037 North Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 562-1518
<https://www.abbeyfh.com/>

Tribute Wall

SB

“ I went to school with Tommy. I remember many things about our exploits, there was the time we went to the state FFA competition as a string band. We also played football together for three years. Yes, I remember him in his young life and regret to here of his passing. You as a family have deepest my sympathy..

Sonny Burke - August 06, 2015 at 04:40 PM

JB

“ My name is James E. Burnham. I joined the FHP in 1976 and served for thirty years. I became acquainted with Lt. Thomas Betts at the academy. He was a sterling example of a trooper, a supervisor, and a teacher. I was able to return to the academy as a counselor and learned a lot from Lt. Betts. I will sadly miss him. May God bless you is my prayer as you see the day coming.

James E. Burnham - August 02, 2015 at 08:17 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mr Thomas Marion Betts Jr..



August 01, 2015 at 12:48 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr Thomas Marion Betts Jr..



July 31, 2015 at 03:30 PM



“ Major Betts was Sgt. Betts when I went through the 37th Recruit class in July 1970. I will never forget his professional demeanor. He was fair and impartial. I'll always remember him for being a perfect representative of the Florida Highway Patrol.

Respectfully, Mike Rushing

Mike Rushing - July 31, 2015 at 02:23 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Major Betts. It was my pleasure to be part of an organization that he was an intergal part of, leading and guiding many into a career with FHP.

T. P. Seymour - July 31, 2015 at 11:00 AM



“ Marilyn Andrews lit a candle in memory of Mr Thomas Marion Betts Jr.



Marilyn Andrews - July 31, 2015 at 08:57 AM

MA

My prayers and thoughts are with the family members and friends.

Marilyn Andrews - July 31, 2015 at 08:59 AM

CO

“ *CITY OF TALLAHASSEE ELECTRIC METER OPERATIONS purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Mr Thomas Marion Betts Jr..*



CITY OF TALLAHASSEE ELECTRIC METER OPERATIONS -
July 31, 2015 at 07:40 AM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Mr Thomas Marion Betts Jr..*



July 30, 2015 at 04:22 PM

AS

“ *Annette Schmidt lit a candle in memory of Mr Thomas Marion Betts Jr.*



Annette Schmidt - July 30, 2015 at 02:22 PM

AS

Thank You for your service Sir. My condolences to the family.

Annette Schmidt - July 30, 2015 at 02:26 PM

SA

“ So sorry to hear of Tommy's passing. Had not seen him in a while at a Bett's family reunion. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. My daughter, Laura and husband Mark bought his Lake Talquin cottage and are still enjoying it. My other was FoyNelle Bett's Barineau. Sarah Sue Barineau Alexander

Sarah Sue Alexander - July 30, 2015 at 01:08 PM

RP

“ Well, what do you say about Tom Betts? He ended up being the friend of many a young State Trooper beginning their careers with the Patrol. He was a man of few words because he could look at you and convey exactly what he was thinking. He commanded an image of respect and was respected state wide. After finishing my initial training I found out he could smile and it would light up the room. He was the example of what a State Trooper should be and how he should act. He became my friend and I do not say that lightly. I use to say that I worked with legends and he was one of those legends.

To the Betts Family I will say this. He will be missed by thousands of State Troopers. I will think of him and I will smile knowing I had the chance to have been in his presents. He will be missed but not forgotten ever. You are in my prayers in this time of loss. And you will always be a part of family of the Florida Highway Patrol.

Respectfully, Sgt. R.J. Peters, Retired, Florida Highway Patrol

R.J. (Rick) Peters - July 30, 2015 at 11:18 AM

SC

“ Prayers for the family as they go on their healing journey down a path of good memories of Tommy. My family and I enjoyed many happy visits with Tommy and Patty through the years with Charlie and Gerry's family. Peace and Love, Sheila and Joann Chitty



Sheila Chitty - July 30, 2015 at 10:55 AM



“ Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mr Thomas Marion Betts Jr..



July 30, 2015 at 10:34 AM

AH

“ Our thoughts remain with you and your family during this difficult time. We are honored by the trust and confidence that you have placed in us during this time. The staff of Abbey Funeral Home.

Abbey Funeral Home - July 30, 2015 at 08:31 AM