



## Thomas Simms Raley

May 12, 1940 - September 20, 2021

Retired Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Simms Raley, (81), of Fulshear, Texas, peacefully passed away on September 20, 2021, after suffering a stroke.

Tom was born on May 12, 1940 to parents Cullen T. and Elna (Peggy) Raley in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Following his father's placement to Lawton, Oklahoma as an Oklahoma Highway Patrolman, Tom graduated from Lawton High School in 1958, where he set the state record for broad jump. He placed first in the National Amateur Athletic Union of the United States Junior Olympics finals. In addition, he won the Outstanding Award for Athletics and Academics, plus earned his Eagle Scout Award that same year. Though he received an appointment to West Point, Tom decided to follow his father's wishes and accepted a full athletic scholarship in track and football to Oklahoma University. While there, he earned his Bachelor's in Business Administration in 1962, then went on to earn his Master's in Business Administration from the University of Colorado in 1972.

After graduating from OU, he commissioned in the Army where he served two tours in Vietnam, one tour in Korea, and one tour in Germany. His tours earned him several awards, including three bronze stars for his heroic actions and commands in a combat environment and The Legion of Merit for his later accomplishments while serving in the Pentagon, equating to a savings of eight billion tax payer's dollars in 1982. After 20 years of service, Tom's military

career came to an honorable close, retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in October 1982.

Upon his military retirement, he entered the corporate world as Vice President of Marketing, for a tactical night vision company, giving him the opportunity to travel around the world. He went on to work for Merrill Lynch as a financial advisor, retiring in 2006. Tom's love of life and competitive nature was seen in all he set out to accomplish, including fishing, working out, and golfing. Winning multiple golf tournaments in Oklahoma, Texas, Arizona, Florida, and Washington DC, one such accomplishment, was a 130-yard hole in one in 2010. His hobbies included watching/trading on the stock market daily, teaching math and dance to his granddaughter and dancing with his greatest dance partner and loving wife, Linda.

Tom married in December 1962 having one child. He later met the love of his life, Linda R. Raley at his 45th high school reunion and married in June of 2006. Soon after becoming known as "TaTom" to his acquired family, especially his granddaughter, Karsen.

He is survived by his wife, Linda (LaLa), sister, Patricia Raley Welch, sister-in-law, Delora Sanford, brother in laws Ron Yoder (Sherrill), Darwin Yoder, bonus children Kristi R Council and Chip Rice (Stephanie), grandchildren, Radd Rotello (Tawny), Karsen Council, Dillon Rice, Griffin Rice (Kelli), Will Rice, and great grandchildren Liam and Ava Rotello. He is also survived by his nieces Kim Hudson Brown, Loral Bodin (Tyler), Ginger Welch and many other nieces, great nieces, nephews and close friends who will miss him dearly. Tom is predeceased by his father, Cullen Raley, Mother, Peggy Raley, brother in laws, George Sanford and Dale Welch, and sister-in-law, Marsha Mattson.

Although Tom was a highly decorated officer, he often said "I'm just a simple soldier who loves my Country and my Family." Tom, you will be missed

beyond measure.

A memorial service, with full military honors, will be held at 11:00 am, October 16, 2021 at the chapel of Davis-Greenlawn Chapel and Funeral Home, 3900 B F Terry Blvd, Rosenberg, Texas 77471. \*The service will be live-streamed through the funeral home website.

A celebration of life will follow at Lomonte's Italian Restaurant, 815 Plantation Drive #180, Richmond, Texas 77406.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in the name of Thomas S. Raley to the Gary Sinise Foundation, honoring our defenders, veterans, first responders and their families, [garysinisefoundation.org](http://garysinisefoundation.org).

We wish to express special recognition to Loretta, Delora (Babe) Sanford, Kim Hudson Brown and Adriana Otalora-Acosta for their untiring, caring, and endless support throughout this difficult time. We would also like to recognize Susan Wells and Tom and Emily Wells for their guidance, support and patience during these last months. A very special place in our hearts for Loretta, for introducing Tom and Linda, and especially to Sharon and Bill Stamps for the many OU games, golf tournaments and Oklahoma weekends, we will always cherish these beautiful memories. You have all helped to make it bearable in enabling Tom's family and Tom to prepare for his transition to Heaven.

Tributes and words of condolence may be left for the family at [www.davisgreenlawnfh.com](http://www.davisgreenlawnfh.com).

Arrangements are under the direction of Davis-Greenlawn Funeral Home,

3900 B.F. Terry Blvd., Rosenberg, Texas 77471, Phone: 281-341-8800.

The service will be live-streamed.

# Previous Events

## Service

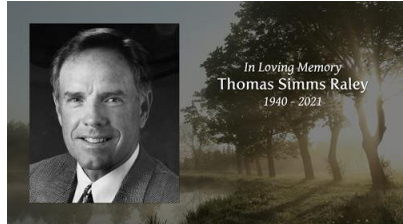
OCT **16**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Davis Greenlawn Funeral Chapels and Cemeteries  
3900 B.F. Terry Blvd.  
Rosenberg, TX 77471  
(281) 341-8800

# Tribute Wall



“ *Davis Greenlawn Funeral Chapel and Cemeteries created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas Simms Raley*



**Davis Greenlawn Funeral Chapel and Cemeteries** - October 15, 2021 at 03:03 PM



“ *Davis Greenlawn Funeral Chapel and Cemeteries created a Webcast in memory of Thomas Simms Raley*



**Davis Greenlawn Funeral Chapel and Cemeteries** - October 07, 2021 at 03:23 PM

GW

“ *I'm sorry I was unable to attend the funeral today but please know that my condolences to Tom's entire family, including his daughter, my loved cousin, Kendal Raley! He was a good dad, husband and Uncle! My sister, Laurel and I are Tom's niece's and the wonderful memories we share of Tom are too many to post here. What a life Tom had! He was so loved by many and will definitely be missed! Much love to all - Ginger Welch*

**Ginger Welch** - October 16, 2021 at 01:04 PM

SM

“ *I'm sorry to hear of Tommy passing away. Watched him play a lot of golf at the Firecracker Golf Tournament in Lawton, Oklahoma on the Fourth of July. Rest in Paradise. The Morris Famil.*



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**Susy Morris** - October 10, 2021 at 01:53 PM