



Ashton, Thomas, Jr.

1942-2023

By atowery@wcmessenger.com / Published on December 05, 2023

Funeral services for Thomas Ashton Jr., 81, of Decatur will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 8, 2023, at Grace Baptist Church in Decatur. Visitation is 10 a.m. Friday at the church. Hudson & Torres Family Funeral Home in Bridgeport will be handling arrangements.

Thomas Ashton Jr., a beloved husband, father, and grandfather, passed away on Dec. 1, 2023. He was born on April 29, 1942, in Levelland, to Thomas Warren Sr. and Alma (Thompson) Ashton. He obtained his degree from Monterey High School in Lubbock, and then graduated from Oklahoma Panhandle State University. Thomas had a deep love for football and even had the opportunity to play for the Chicago Bears for a brief period. He then embarked on a 28-year career as an elevator mechanic at Dover Elevator in Dallas until he retired.

While he dedicated much time to his career, he cherished the joys of marriage. On July 23, 2012, he married Jo-Bess Swank

Hammons — marking the beginning of a beautiful chapter in their lives together.

Thomas was actively involved in his community. He held the esteemed position of Grand Mason with Masonic Lodge No. 447 and Worthy Patron of Eastern Star No. 5, both in Decatur. Thomas was also an active member of Grace Baptist Church in Decatur, and he attended church services regularly. These roles allowed him to make a positive impact on many lives.

Those left to cherish Thomas's memory are his wife, Jo-Bess (Swank Hammons) Ashton of Decatur; daughters, Tracey Bruton of Paradise, Tina Garcia of Grandview, Missouri, and Audry Safavimehr of Lubbock; stepsons, Rusty Murray of Lake Dallas, Kenneth Green of Decatur, David Green and Mark Green; stepdaughter, Elizabeth Wagner; grandchildren, Zachary Bruton, Nathan Ashton, Max Doby, Cody West, Jessica Safavimehr, Sara Alkhafaji and Hannah Alkhafaji; great-grandchildren, Silas Alkhafaji, Amelia Bruton, and Rhett Bruton; step-grandchildren, Logan, Duncan, and Raven Murray; step-great-grandchildren, Aiden, Liam, Eli, Benjamin Murray, and Angie and Estela Ramirez; numerous nieces and nephews; and a host of friends and family.

Thomas is preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Cathy Brock and Phyllis Moten; and great-grandchild, Noah Alkhafaji.

Hudson & Torres Family Funeral Home | 401 Halsell Street, Bridgeport, TX 76426 | hudsontorres.com | 940-683-1704