



**Kemp, Thomas Newton**

1955-2022

By [ops@our-hometown.com](mailto:ops@our-hometown.com) / Published on March 11, 2022

Thomas Newton Kemp, Ph.D., went to be with our Lord March 9, 2022. He passed away peacefully at home on the family farm in Staples.

Visitation is 5 to 7 p.m. March 13, at the McCurdy Funeral Home in Lockhart.

Funeral service is 10:30 a.m. March 14 at the First Christian Church in Lockhart. A graveside service will follow at the Staples Cemetery.

Thomas was born June 22, 1955, to Ira Newton and Sibelle Jan in Riverside, Calif.

At the age of five, the family moved back to Texas where he and his brother grew up in Duncanville, surrounded by family and friends.

Thomas graduated from Duncanville High School in 1974. He was an active member of the FFA chapter and played sports. He often spent his childhood in the Texas countryside near Hamilton with his many cousins, enjoying horseback riding, raising livestock, fishing and hunting.

A lifelong student and teacher, Thomas earned his bachelor's degree from Tarleton State University through scholarships. After graduation, Thomas

married the love of his life, Evie Lou McCrury, July 28, 1979, in Lockhart. He began his career as an agscience teacher at Manor and then DeSoto High School.

After obtaining a master's degree in agriculture, Thomas moved to take over the agriculture program at Tarrant County Junior College in Fort Worth. He would later earn an MBA and doctorate as head of the Business-Economics Department at Tarrant County College, where he devoted 35 years to education as a professor.

Thomas is a former resident of Decatur, where he and his wife raised their three children. Thomas' love of cattle and agriculture not only shaped his future but also how he and Evie raised their kids. Many remember him fondly as a farmer, rancher, Angus cattle breeder and member of the First United Methodist Church in Decatur where he sang in the church choir. He was a member of the Texas Angus Association, American Angus Association, Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, National Cattlemen's Beef Association and Independent Cattlemen's Association. He devoted much of his life to helping youth in agriculture.

Upon retiring from Tarrant County College in 2017, he and Evie moved to Staples to build their home on the family farm where he would be a full-time farmer and cattle raiser. He was member of the First Christian Church in Lockhart and served as elder. He was a loving and devoted husband, Dad, Papa, brother, friend and mentor to many who will miss him dearly.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ira Newton and Sibille Jan Kemp.

Those left behind to cherish his memory are his wife of 42 years, Evie Kemp, of Staples; son, Kyle Ira Kemp of College Station; daughters, Katy Nell Kemp of Staples Kristi Lynn Summers and son-in-law, Cody James Summers, of Luling; grandchildren, Luke James Summers and Adelynn Grace Summers of Luling; brother, Donald Harvey Kemp of Seguin; brother-in-law, Cliff McCrury and wife, Trisha, of Stephenville; nephew, Clifton and nieces, Kayla and Kayci; numerous cousins, and a host of friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages you to keep Thomas' passion for cattle and youth alive by donating to the Thomas Kemp Memorial Scholarship.

Donations can be sent to: Texas Angus Foundation, c/o Thomas Kemp Memorial Scholarship, 2441 B. Northwest Loop, Stephenville, TX 76401.