



# Thomas Buell

FEB 23, 1950 - FEB 13, 2018



Scan to Visit

# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Events</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 6



## **Thomas Buell**

FEB 23, 1950 - FEB 13, 2018

**T**homas Buell passed away on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at the age of 67. Beloved husband of Dawnell LeBlanc Buell. Loving father of Elise Guidry and Kasey Buell. Loving Stepfather of Nicole Self, Ashley Ryden, Patrick Uloth, Tammy Stiebing, and Tiffany Wall. Son of the late Verna Lusk Buell and David Newcomb Buell. Brother of Duncan Buell and Connie Buell Hinton. Grandfather of Barrett Strickland, Odin Strickland, Nova Strickland, Owen Argueta, Emma Grace Argueta, Drake Guidry, Savannah Guidry, Alexis Guidry, Lanie Guidry, Catherine Welch, Sarah Calamia, Sydney Aiavolasiti, Georgiana Aiavolasiti, George Aiavolasiti, Scott Barrilleaux, Jr., Logan Barrilleaux, Kaid Ryden, Katherine Ryden, Connor Uloth, Carmella Uloth, Haley Stiebing, Grant Stiebing, Lanie Stiebing, Hannah Fersch, Rachel Fersch, and Lydia Wall. Great-grandfather of Caroline Milliken.

Tom graduated from Mandeville High School in '68, earned a certificate from LSU's Traffic Management Institute in 1977 and received his Bachelor's in Criminal Justice from Southeastern Louisiana University in 1984. He joined the Mandeville Police Department in 1971 as a Patrol Officer, and was first appointed Chief of Police in 1974 at age 24, the youngest Police Chief in Louisiana at the time. Two years into the job, Buell left for the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office where he served as an Investigator and Patrol Sergeant, but returned in 1980 when Mayor Ray Foil reappointed him Chief. In the next 28 years, Mandeville residents enjoyed low crime rates and quick response times as the Police Department grew to 54 employees and added modern technology to its arsenal. Buell pioneered the use of school resource officers in the parish, also adding DARE drug prevention programs. While new subdivisions populated by commuter families sprouted within city limits, Buell adhered to his small-town policing style. Alongside his officers, he worked around the clock to get the city running again after Hurricane Katrina. He continued as Chief of Police, serving under Mayors Foil, Cordes, Spitzfaden and Price until his retirement in 2009. As Chief of the Mandeville Police Department his long-sought goal was to provide employees with a workplace that allowed them to serve their full careers in Mandeville.



## Obituary

**Thomas Buell**

FEB 23, 1950 - FEB 13, 2018

---

Tom also served on St. Tammany Parish Communications District #1, as a member and 10 years as Chairman. He served 10 years as a member of the Parish Flood Mitigation Board, multiple terms as member of the Board of the Municipal Police Retirement System, and most recently as Chair of the St. Tammany Emergency Planning Committee. He was a member of the Louisiana Chiefs of Police and International Chiefs of Police.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral services at Church of the King, 22205 Little Creek Road, Mandeville, LA 70471 on Saturday, February 24, 2018 at 2:00 PM with visitation at church on Saturday beginning at 11:00 AM.

Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in memory of Mr. Buell to be made to The Greater Mandeville Police Foundation .




# Events

**Thomas Buell**

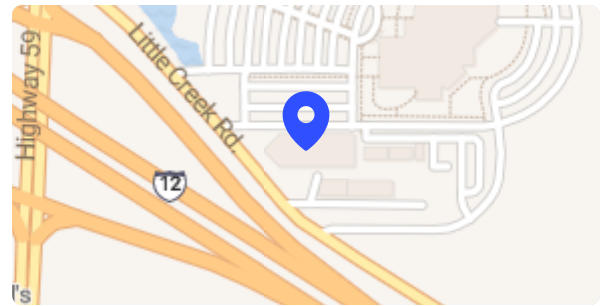
FEB 23, 1950 - FEB 13, 2018

## Funeral Services

 **Saturday**, February 24, 2018

 2:00 PM CT

 **Church of the King**  
22205 Little Creek Rd, Mandeville LA 70471





## Tribute Wall

**Thomas Buell**

FEB 23, 1950 - FEB 13, 2018



**Randy Ostendorf** posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with Dawnell and the family. May God comfort you and give you peace. Randy Ostendorf

February 24 at 4:45 AM



**Carl Bennett** posted:

I first met Tom in the early 1970's during my introduction to law enforcement work. He was ahead of his time in his view of what a law enforcement officer should be. Politeness, humility and professionalism was his cornerstone. It remained so his entire life. Tom treated all with respect including the bad guys. He was not only loyal to his oath but also to his friends. He helped many of us with no expectation of anything in return. It was just his way. A decent and honest man who was a credit to his profession and his community.

February 23 at 7:09 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Buell family.



February 23 at 12:58 AM



**Melanie Hayno** lit a candle in honor of Thomas.

May this candle shine forever and give peace to Dawnell and the entire Buell family. My thoughts and prayers are with you always.



February 22 at 1:44 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Thomas Buell**

FEB 23, 1950 - FEB 13, 2018

DG

**Darryl Galloway** lit a candle in honor of Thomas.



Chief Buell was a special person to me. When I was working out of state and so desperately wanting to return home he sent word to me by a mutual friend to call him at his home or office. I called him that very evening and he immediately offered me a job, which I gladly excepted. I knew Chief Buell for many years before he became my boss and always held the the utmost respect for him. Not only was he an honest and fair man, who took pride in his department and the hardworking employees, but he was also a person who strived and succeeded in making a Department that exhibited professionalism, honesty and integrity, which did not go unnoticed by the citizens of Mandeville, St. Tammany Parish or deputies as well as police officers of other agencies through out law enforcement communities. Chief Buell was a special kind of boss, who was willing to listen to new ideas and / or suggestions, even excepting some and implementing them into the departments daily activities. He always ran a taut ship, requiring his officer / employees to look and act as professionals no matter what the call to service was, but he was always fair and would be the first one to stand up for you when it was needed. I reluctantly left Chief Buell to pursue employment elsewhere, eventually landing my dream job for which I'm still employed. I still to this day will and forever address him as Chief, no matter his request after his retirement to just call him Tom. He not only was a great boss, he was my friend and was there if ever I needed him no matter what. When I resigned, I just didn't leave a Department, I left a family, a family who Chief Buell gave me the opportunity to become part of and I will always consider each and every one of them as "My Family". I will truly miss him, but I will never forget him, for he was a man that stood like a giant, but as gentle as a lamb. I learned so much from him, not only in respect to law enforcement, but how to be a better person, how to lead by example and how to treat others with respect and dignity. I regret not visiting him prior to his passing, but in my mind I will always remember him as the man he was, a true and loyal friend and one of the best bosses I'd ever had the pleasure of working for!!! God speed Chief and I want you to know you will truly be missed, not only by me, but by more people than you could ever imagine!!! Dawnell, I'm sorry for your loss, and if you should ever need anything from me or my department, please do not hesitate to call... With deepest regards, Sergeant Darryl Galloway Sergeant Darryl Galloway Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Division of Law Enforcement

February 16 at 5:02 AM

MG

**Mike Gennusa** sent a virtual gift in honor of Thomas.



Tom was a wonderful man and a good friend to all. He will certainly be missed!

February 20 at 10:44 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Thomas Buell**

FEB 23, 1950 - FEB 13, 2018

JA

**Julie Abel** lit a candle in honor of Thomas.

February 19 at 1:06 PM



MF

**Mark Fisher** posted:

Very sorry for your loss Dawnell

February 19 at 3:46 AM

MF

**Mark Fisher** lit a candle in honor of Thomas.

February 19 at 3:45 AM



PS

**Paul R. Spitzfaden, Jr.** posted:

Tom was a son of Mandeville that everyone related to, worked with, knew for years. His accomplishments as a Police Chief were remarkable and earned, not to mention acting as a big brother member of the community. My father was very proud to have Tom as his Police Chief. He will missed.

February 18 at 5:40 PM

JM

**Jackie Mendow** lit a candle in honor of Thomas.

February 18 at 4:39 PM



JM

**Jackie Mendow** posted:

I have known Mr. Tom for a lot of years and was proud to say he was a great friend and, was once, a great neighbor. Love and prayers to the family..

February 18 at 4:39 PM



# Tribute Wall

**Thomas Buell**

FEB 23, 1950 - FEB 13, 2018



**Gary Blocker** posted:

My heartfelt condolences go out to the family. I was honored to have known Tom. He was such a caring, compassionate and professional gentleman. Rest In Peace, Chief.

February 18 at 10:40 AM



**Mona L Preis** posted:

Sorry to hear about Tom's passing, prayers to his family. What a VERY special person he was. He will be greatly missed. Mona Cavalliero - Preis

February 18 at 10:27 AM



**Herman S Freeman** lit a candle in honor of Thomas.



February 18 at 12:28 AM

**HF** **Herman S Freeman** February 18 at 12:28 AM  
Rip



**Ken Hohlbaugh** posted:

My family lived in Mandeville from 1975 until mid-96. I knew Tom from my time on P&Z for 11 years and seeing him around city hall at counsel meetings, etc. I found him good with the young people growing up and was always looking out for the good of Mandeville. After we moved away my son Kevin stayed in contact with Tom thru facebook so I knew about his first bout with cancer and it's return. Tom will be missed as he was someone who people trusted and enjoyed being around. You should be proud of the legacy he left behind. Respectfully, Ken Hohlbaugh

February 17 at 2:51 PM



# Tribute Wall

**Thomas Buell**

FEB 23, 1950 - FEB 13, 2018

LL

**Lesli Longbottom** posted:

Darnell and family, we send our deepest condolences. I pray God to hold you and help you bear the weight of this sorrow. I hope you will remember that this is the only world in which a Christian can suffer and find comfort in the hope we have in Christ and to that day when we will be reunited with all those whom we have loved who have gone on before us, where there will be no more sickness no more sorrows and no more tears. Roger and Lesli Longbottom

February 17 at 1:55 PM

LD

**La-La And Aj Davis** lit a candle in honor of Thomas.

I will never forget how much your support meant to my family. AJ always looked up to you and I am forever grateful for the care and guidance you showed him. I will miss our lunch dates, laughs about old stories and new ones, and our chats when you came to my office at the Parish. My deepest heartfelt sympathies are with the Buell family.



February 17 at 7:15 AM

DM

**Dave And Jane Maher** posted:

So sorry to hear of Tom's passing. We both will miss our chats with our neighbor at our mailboxes.

February 17 at 5:16 AM

KN

**Kay Newman** lit a candle in honor of Thomas.

Tom was a very special person. Condolences to the family.



February 16 at 7:45 PM

JM

**Jo Ann (Augenstein) Miller** lit a candle in honor of Thomas.

February 16 at 4:42 PM



JM

**Joann (Augenstein) Miller** February 16 at 4:45 PM

My deepest sympathies for Tom's family. He had a fantastic career after graduating from MHS in 1968 with our small class. May he RIP. JoAnn (Augenstein) Miller



## Tribute Wall

**Thomas Buell**

FEB 23, 1950 - FEB 13, 2018

KG

**Kelly Shea Grunditz** posted:

Chief Buell was an honorable man and was respected by many! He loved the city of Mandeville and its citizens.....he understood the people and had a heart for the teens he sought to help on a daily basis! He always offered a smile and a helping hand! He will be missed! Many prayers for you Dawnell and your family, much love from the Shea family!

February 16 at 2:44 PM

RG

**Robin Galloway** posted:

Dawnell I can't even imagine the pain you are feeling. Mr. Tom adored you and loved you dearly the feelings were mutual. I pray that God wraps his loving arms around you and that you find peace and comfort in y'all's wonderful memories. I send my deepest condolences. Mr. Tom was such a good man who found a good woman to share his life with. God bless you and your family. Live always, Robin Galloway

February 16 at 1:59 PM

DL

**Debra Lala** posted:

When I worked for the City of Mandeville, Tom was always the one to step up and help me out with appearing at functions. You couldn't have known a kinder person. His memories fill this town and all who knew him.

February 16 at 10:19 AM

JG

**Joanne Frey (Guinchard)** posted:

Dawnell, I am so sorry for your loss... my prayers are with you!Joanne Frey (Guinchard)Seward Alaska

February 16 at 9:00 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Thomas Buell**

FEB 23, 1950 - FEB 13, 2018



**Pat Pitre** posted:

Tom was a man of dignity, grace, respect and charm. He had immense courtesy and concern for others and was one of those of whom it can truly be said that he made the world a better place for those of us who were lucky enough to know him. We will remember him just not for what we've lost, but for who he was and what he achieved. Tom was a genuinely good man who believed and worked in a sometimes difficult and troubled world. Taken much too soon. Our sincere condolences to Dawnell and family. Pat and Rickey Pitre

February 16 at 8:55 AM



**Debby Harper** February 16 at 11:33 AM

RIP my dear friend, always so kind. Our town was in the safest state that ever knew. The best Chief of Police. God Bless your family forever. Sending prayers



## Tribute Wall

**Thomas Buell**

FEB 23, 1950 - FEB 13, 2018

CA

**Cathy** posted:

Dawnell my heart is breaking for you. May Tom Rest In Peace. He was truly an amazing person. My prayers are with you always. Love you girl, Cathy Serpas

February 16 at 5:02 AM

TB

**Tommy Breazeale** February 24 at 5:29 AM

I first met Tom Buell when he was chief in 1975. I like many kids were at the Thunderbird Skating Rink. They had recovered some stolen skates and returned them to the owners, Ernest and Betty Loeb. Tom spoke to me politely about the recovery and after he left. I did not know that five years later I would be working for him. I started at the police department in February of 1980 and left 30 years later. Chief Buell was always looking for ways to better the department and his biggest was community policing. If you worked in our department you received up to date training either in state or out of state. He always made sure we patrolled the subdivision and streets in Mandeville. Officers had contact cards where we would get the name of the citizen we spoke with and turn the card it. There contacts each shift and arrested person's did not count. I thoroughly enjoyed the years I be spent at the department and look back frequently and think how far this department grew under his leadership. Everyday he was looking for the best equipment to help our officers and citizens. You did your job well Chief Thomas Buell and most of the people in this parish believe so. Godspeed

HG

**Hw Gloved** February 19 at 2:16 PM

I had the privilege of working with Tom for ten years as director of the 911 district. He Recruited me for St Tammany Parish and was totally devoted to all citizens of the parish and had the utmost integrity of anyone I worked with throughout my career.

BM

**Bill McGuire** February 17 at 3:27 PM

So sorry to hear about Tom. Thoughts and prayers to the family. Bill & Roi McGuire, Black Mountain, NC

AP

**Al Pogue** February 16 at 5:22 PM

Condolences and prayers for your family. May the peace and comfort of the Lord be with you.

GM

**Gary Mitchell** February 16 at 5:11 PM

A wonderful man and a close friend for many many years. Rest In Peace Tom. You will be sorely miss. Gary and Judy Mitchell

MN

**Marco Nuzzolillo** February 16 at 4:00 PM

God Bless

TL

**Tim Lentz** February 16 at 11:57 AM

Throughout my career, I am often asked "How did you get into law enforcement"? My answer was always the same, Tom Buell. As a young kid growing up in Mandeville Tom would always



## Tribute Wall

**Thomas Buell**

FEB 23, 1950 - FEB 13, 2018



stop by the house visiting my sister. He would let me play in his police car and mess with the red lights and siren. As a young boy of about 10 years old, I became fascinated with being a police officer, all thanks to Tom. Throughout my 35 plus year career, Tom remained a mentor and more importantly a dear friend. He will always have a special place in my heart. The City of Mandeville is a better place because of Tom, due to his lifetime of dedication to a City that he loved. My thoughts and prayers go out to Dawnell and his family. May he rest in peace, Tim Lentz Chief of Police City of Covington



**Bill Sullivan** February 16 at 7:11 AM

We all will miss the Chief. He was a fine man and I was lucky to know him growing up in Mandeville. I have great memories of him as he always took the time to talk to me. My prayers go out to his family. Rest in Peace Tom and God bless you. Bill Sullivan



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Thomas by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit