



## Dr. Thomas Willson Jr.

November 4, 1935 - January 9, 2021

Dr. Thomas Willson Jr., 85, of Covington, passed away January 9, 2021, peacefully at home with his family.

Tom, known as Doc to many, was born on November 4, 1935 to Thomas and Verna Willson in New Orleans, LA. He graduated from Rugby Academy, Tulane University and Loyola Dental School. He then did his residency in the United States Army as a Captain and was stationed in Fort Benning, Georgia and Fort Ord, California.

Anyone who knew Tom knew he was a character with a keen sense of humor and who had a passion for fishing, golfing, and Mardi Gras. He was a charter member and King of the Krewe of Olympia. He was a former member of the Rotary Club, Jaycee's, former president of Covington Country Club, and a Master Mason at Crescent City Lodge #387.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, sister, and two sons, James and John. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Mary Kathryn Parker Willson, and children, Thomas Willson III, Brenda Willson Raymer (Kenneth), and Kay Willson Burns (Wade). He is survived by his grandchildren Ashley Raymer, McKenzie Bankston, Thomas Willson IV, Courtney Raymer, and Logan Bankston.

The children of Tom would like to thank our Mother, Mary K, for her dedication to keeping our father at home through the years. We want to thank St. Tammany Hospice and offer special thanks to independent caregivers, Wendy, Jennifer, and Judith for their compassion, friendship and skilled assistance and for making our father's final days comfortable and peaceful.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend a visitation from 3:30 PM until 5:00PM, on Saturday, January 16, 2021, at EJ Fielding Funeral Home, 2260 W 21st Ave, Covington, LA 70433, followed by a private family service.

With COVID-19, restrictions social distancing and face mask are required to attend

services.

The Willson family invites you to share thoughts, fond memories, and condolences online at E. J. Fielding Funeral Home Guest Book at [www.ejfieldingfh.com](http://www.ejfieldingfh.com).

# Events

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**JAN**   **Visitation**   03:30PM - 05:00PM

**16**

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E.J. Fielding Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
2260 W 21st Ave, Covington, LA, US, 70433

# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**E.J. Fielding Funeral Home & Cremation Services** - January 13 at 05:19 PM

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“ Mary: Sorry to hear abt Tommt....Rugby...high school....great time in a kids life. We were 13 12 boys and 1 girl. We were the basketball,football cadet officers,radio,student council and did whatever we were called upon to do. We were the largest class in high school at that time. Not many of us left. Jim,Speedy,Bob Maness,Dickie,Clinton,Glenn now Tommy gone. Billy still kicking,don't know about Pep,Bob Bland or Boo. Again sorry abt Tommy I know he wl be missed.Sorry I did not make the services dodging that civid19 bullet...Sincerely...Mike Castine

**Mike Castine** - January 15 at 04:33 PM

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“ Carmen C. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dr. Thomas Willson Jr..



**Carmen C.** - January 15 at 01:15 PM

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“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Thomas Willson Jr..



January 14 at 09:22 PM

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“ Dr. Tom, as he was introduced to me when I was 5 years old in 68, was my dentist until I left Mandeville in 1982. I met Jim, Tom and Brenda at MES. Jim and I became fast friends/enemies from the get go. Paling around and fighting our whole young lives. The Doctor loved having me around, especially when it was time to move heavy things. Dr. Tom took all of us kids to a Tulane vs LSU football game in the dome once. First we ate and loaded our pockets with peanuts at the Gound Pati restaurant pregame. Then after a Tulane victory, he drove us around Mandeville to TP all his LSU alumni friends houses with green toilet paper. One of many good times I can always remember compliments of Dr. Tom. RIP sir, I always looked up to you with admiration and respect. My sincerest condolences to Mrs. MaryKay, Tom, Jim (RIP), Brenda and baby Kay.

**Ross Pool** - January 14 at 11:31 AM



“ I remember rolling houses that night! I couldn't believe we were allowed to do it much less having my Dad leading the adventure. Dad bought all the toilet paper he could find... Fun times!

**Brenda Willson Raymer** - January 14 at 01:31 PM

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“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Thomas Willson Jr..



January 14 at 12:13 AM

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“ Tommy took me, his niece, to learn how to swim at City Park public pool. The pool was an Olympic sized double pool open to the public. He told me to climb up to the top of the slide and he would catch me at the bottom. Trusting & naive me, climbed to the top, checking to see if he was waiting for me at the bottom . Of course he couldn't catch me, but he made sure I didn't drown!

Dianne Gattuso Savarese - January 13 at 09:31 PM

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“ Tommy, maybe 4 or 5, ran into the house one day as he was fishing in the drainage ditch behind the house. He caught an alligator! He was so excited! His mother and sister brushed him off, “Sure son. You got an alligator.”  
Until the neighbor came in and told them you better come look, because he had a good sized alligator at the end of his cane fishing pole!

YIKES!!!!

Dianne Gattuso Savarese - January 13 at 09:29 PM

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“ Tommy was not sure he wanted to go to college so his dad got him a summer job working on a River barge. Decision made!

Dianne Gattuso Savarese - January 13 at 09:26 PM

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“ In an effort to bond with his brother in law, Everett, my daddy, and Tommy went fishing. On the drive to a treasured fishing spot of my dad, my dad noticed the boat and trailer they were bringing had taken another parallel road (not being securely hitched to daddy's truck).  
My dad, having a very dry Midwestern humor, calmly told Tommy to speed up so they could get there before the boat did as it was passing them up the road. 🤪

Dianne Gattuso Savarese - January 13 at 09:25 PM

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“ Tommy always had me, his little niece, hanging around he and his friends. One day they decided to play “cowboys” and tied me to a tree. Years later, I met his friend again and he turned out to be a high school friend of my then husband, Philip. We had a really good laugh remembering the stories.

Dianne Gattuso Savarese - January 13 at 09:22 PM

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“ Tommy was recruited by his one and only sister, my mother, to help me with fractions or algebra as I was having difficulty understanding. He came over daily and helped me with my homework. From then on, I had such an understanding of math for the rest of my school days. I never had trouble again with it.

Dianne Gattuso Savarese - January 13 at 09:21 PM

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“ For years, Tommy rode in a truck parade on Mardi Gras Day. It was so much fun to look for him in my special spot. When I found him, he would shower me with beads & things he had saved just for me. It was so special & fun!

Dianne Gattuso Savarese - January 13 at 09:19 PM

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“ Whole in dental school, Tommy ran out of gas on St. Charles Avenue. He called his Dad to come & get him. Pops showed up & asked him if he had the gas card, his Dad's gas card, on his person. Tommy said yes. Pops got back into his car & drove away letting him figure it out for himself.

Dianne Gattuso Savarese - January 13 at 09:14 PM

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“ Tommy played football for a year or two while in grammar school. On one play he got tackled pretty hard. His mother ran onto the field yelling “My Son! My Son!” After that. Tommy asked his Dad to keep her away from the games from then on. “Please!”

Dianne Gattuso Savarese - January 13 at 09:10 PM

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“ Warren Bankston lit a candle in memory of Dr. Thomas Willson Jr.



Warren Bankston - January 13 at 01:33 PM

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“ Dr. Willson will be deeply missed, and remembered for his kindness, dedication to his family and dental practice, and a generous and loving man. Doc also had a great sense of humor, was always upbeat, and quick with a smile and some wit to brighten your day. In many ways, he was like another father to me, and I considered him as such. I have many great memories of our fishing, golfing, Mardi Gras outings, working in the yard, and the many board games we all enjoyed together. He was had a wealth of wisdom and advice, which helped me tremendously in both my professional and personal life. So many great memories of an honorable and hard-working man, father and husband, and may all who knew him remember him this way. Doc, you are greatly loved, and will be missed more than you know. Rest in peace my dear friend, and enjoy the riches of Heaven.

Warren Bankston - January 13 at 01:32 PM

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“ Mary Kaye! We are so very saddened to learn of Tom's passing! We send love, and sympathy to you and your family! Tom was such a kind & generous friend! And he will be missed!  
We remember fondly many good times with you all ! And are so appreciative of how Tom was so encouraging, in standing by Frank, as we set up our Practice in the Covington area. Many special times - golfing,& fishing, - what an expert fisherman he was!!

Dr Frank & Rosemary Graziano - January 13 at 12:12 PM

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“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Dr. Thomas Willson Jr..



January 13 at 12:10 PM

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“ Doc was the best uncle anyone can have. I cherish the years I worked with him. We laughed, we sang, we enjoyed each other. He loved his work . He passed that on to me and I'm so thankful for it and him. I love you Uncle Tommy. I'll miss you.

**cindy walle** - January 13 at 11:48 AM

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“ So sorry to hear of your loss. Dr. Wilson will be missed by all of us who knew and loved him. Our condolences to his family, friends, and former patients.

Bill Dobson and family

**William Dobson** - January 13 at 10:22 AM

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“ So sorry to hear of your loss. Certainly a pillar in our community who will be missed. Will be out of town for services on Saturday but will be praying for your peace. Lizby Morse Eustis

**Lizby Eustis** - January 13 at 09:36 AM

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“ Andree Champagne lit a candle in memory of Dr. Thomas Willson Jr.



**Andree Champagne** - January 13 at 09:07 AM

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“ Dear Mary Kay and Family, our family send you our love and sympathy. It is impossible to think of Tom without remembering something he said or did that would cause you to smile at the memory. He will be missed by everyone.

**Patricia Timothy** - January 13 at 08:28 AM

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“ Malee, Raymond and Addison Taylor purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dr. Thomas Willson Jr..



**Malee, Raymond and Addison Taylor** - January 12 at 09:31 PM

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“ Paw Paw and I catching catfish, notice his shirt, he always had a sense of humor. Will miss his smile, always having fun.



**Wade Burns** - January 12 at 08:52 PM



“ Who actually caught that fish? Looks like a group effort!

**Brenda** - January 12 at 08:55 PM



“ It was definitely dad who caught the fish. Wade is trying to steal his glory.

**Kay Willson Burns** - January 12 at 09:53 PM

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“ My dad was the best! He was humble and kind with a wonderful sense-of-humor. He loved us and he let us know it in a million little ways. He loved his profession, and his patients were like family to him. He had the best smile, and my absolute favorite memories were dancing with my dad. He truly was one-of-a-kind

**Kay Willson Burns** - January 12 at 07:18 PM



“ I love you pawpaw, you always made me laugh and smile and I will love you forever I know you're looking down on me and I miss you more than you know.

**McKenzie Bankston** - January 13 at 06:43 PM



“ You are a sweetheart, McKenzie, don't make me cry.

**Brenda Willson Raymer** - January 14 at 01:30 AM



“ Kay, your dad was a very strong male figure in my life! Lord knows, I needed that. His kindness and sense of humor are forever in my memories.

**Ross** - January 14 at 11:44 AM

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“ When it comes to fathers, we won the lottery! I couldn't ask for a better Daddy. His big heart, tender manner and unending patience is inspiring. Thank you for being the first man I ever loved and teaching me what unconditional love truly means.

**Brenda Willson Raymer** - January 12 at 04:26 PM



“ He was at the top of the list. Yall's was a second home to me.

**Ross** - January 14 at 11:47 AM