



## Thomas "Tom" Ray Mayes

October 8, 1943 - November 22, 2021

Thomas Ray Mayes, 78 of Caldwell, Texas passed away peacefully on Monday, November 22, 2021 surrounded by his loving family. A public visitation will be held on Saturday, November 27, 2021 from 10:00 - 11:00 AM in the chapel at Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home, followed by a graveside service at 11:30 AM at the Caldwell Masonic Cemetery.

Thomas Ray Mayes was born on October the 8th, 1943 in Hidalgo County, Edinburg Texas to Frank and Ruby Clark Mayes. After graduation from La Joya High School, Tom became an employee of the U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service in 1961. During his career, he worked at his hometown of Mission and served at Groveton, Houston and Woodville before transferring to Caldwell in January of 1970. He retired from the U.S.D.A. Natural Resource Conservation Service at the end of 2010 with 49 years of service. Tom walked out the door on Friday as a retiree and back in on Monday as a part time employee of the Burleson County Soil and Water Conservation District and was an Earth Team Volunteer with the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Tom felt blessed to have a career that allowed him to work with landowners and contractors on private land and assist them with the application of sound conservation practices in an effort to preserve our natural resources for future generations. He left his mark on the land with hundreds of farm ponds constructed, hundreds of acres of irrigation, land leveling, and miles of underground irrigation pipelines installed.

He served as the Burleson County 4-H Rifle Club adult leader and rifle coach

for over 23 years. He was a volunteer instructor for the Texas Hunter Safety Program and always began the new club year with a Hunter Safety Course that was also open to the public. He was proud of the fact that his teams competed at the 4-H District Contest and won District 20 of the 23 years he was their coach. He had ten shooters on the line five nights per week for nine months of the season. He said that when his students graduated, got married, and then brought their children into the rifle club, it was time for him to step down. It was a rewarding experience to work with the youth and see them grow in their leadership ability and to master their marksmanship skill while focusing on firearm safety and responsibility. Under his watchful eye, there was never a firearm-related accident in the history of the club and he credited his students for this perfect record.

Tom also served as president of the Caldwell Cemetery Association and felt that it was a calling by God for him to serve. His tasks were many, including lot sales, recording funerals, trimming trees, mowing, removing old flowers and the endless task of fighting the imported fire ants. Tom took pride and felt honored to have been asked to serve on the Board of Directors in 1996 following the death of his son, Jesse.

After retirement, Tom was asked if he planned to travel. He said "Not as long as I can sleep in my own bed when the sun goes down". He considered himself a simple man with simple needs. His passion was working around the house and building simple woodworking projects. As you drive through the county, you will see hundreds of Eastern Bluebird nesting boxes that he built for landowners that had goals in wildlife management. He believed that if you enjoyed what you were doing, then you were on vacation all the time.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Ruby Clark Mayes, his son, Jesse, son-in-law Domingo Lopez Jr. and his brother William F. Mayes. He is survived by his loving and faithful wife Velma, his daughter Karen and husband Andrew Rabroker, grandsons Justin and wife Kodie Rabroker, Scott Rabroker, Robby Rabroker and granddaughter Sammi Rabroker, granddaughter Sarah and husband Leo Moreau of Wasilla, Alaska, 2 great

grandsons Baron Moreau of Wasilla, Alaska and Thomas Rabroker of Carrollton, Texas. He is also survived by stepdaughters Charlotte and husband Dan Strong of Chriesman, Texas, Tanya and husband Tommy Ihlenfeldt of Chriseman, Texas, step grandchildren Kara and husband Brandon Cavin of Caldwell, Texas, Kellie and husband Kaleb Hairston of Rockdale, Texas, Willie Ihlenfeldt, Leighla and DJ Strong of Chriseman, Texas and one step great granddaughter Kami Hairston. He is also survived by three nephews, Charles, Brady and Jeffrey Mayes and niece Brenda, all from the Rio Grande Valley.

Tom leaves the world at peace with his creator, God Almighty. In the words of his son, Jesus "My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?" The road through life from the cradle to the grave may not always be smooth.

Therefore, live each day to the fullest, as yesterday is gone and tomorrow may never come. Miss me but let me go.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a charitable contribution to the Caldwell Masonic Cemetery, P.O. Box 172, Caldwell, Texas 77836.

Express condolences at [Phillipsandluckey.com](http://Phillipsandluckey.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Caldwell Masonic Cemetery

1411 W. Buck St.  
Caldwell, TX

# Previous Events

## Public Visitation

NOV 27. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - Caldwell  
404 W. Buck St.  
Caldwell, TX 77836  
(979) 567-3232  
phillipsandluckeyfh@yahoo.com  
<https://www.phillipsandluckey.com/>

## Graveside Service

NOV 27. 11:30 AM (CT)

Caldwell Masonic Cemetery  
1411 W. Buck St.  
Caldwell, TX

# Tribute Wall



“ *Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas "Tom" Ray Mayes*



Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - November 24, 2021 at 03:15 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas "Tom" Ray Mayes.*



November 27, 2021 at 02:03 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Thomas "Tom" Ray Mayes.*



November 26, 2021 at 03:57 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Thomas "Tom" Ray Mayes.*



November 26, 2021 at 09:28 AM



“ *I had the pleasure of working with Tom in 4H rifle club and USDA. He was a very good friend and will be truly missed. A better man can not be found. Rod and Barbara Giesenschlag.*

**Rod Giesenschlag** - November 25, 2021 at 05:46 PM



“ *2 files added to the album Life Tributes*



**Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home** - November 25, 2021 at 01:52 PM



“ *Velma & Karen, I miss him so. I will miss our monthly phone calls. I'm so blessed to have had him in my life as I have so many beautiful memories of him. He wasn't just my uncle. He was my older Brother. I'd lean upon him for advice and comfort. He'd help in all he could then say, "Trust in the Lord Charlie. He will never fail you". My heart goes out to all who loved and knew him. Tommy until we meet again in Heaven. Love, Charles*

**CHARLES D. MAYES** - November 25, 2021 at 01:52 AM

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“ Charles & Vickie Mayes purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Thomas "Tom" Ray Mayes.



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**Charles & Vickie Mayes** - November 25, 2021 at 12:55 AM

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“ 74 files added to the album Life Tributes



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**Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home** - November 24, 2021 at 03:14 PM