



Tommy Hill Hodges

February 23, 1941 - May 15, 2025

Tommy Hill Hodges was born on February 23, 1941, in Columbia, Louisiana to Andrew and Ethel (Watson) Hodges. Tommy graduated from Kelly High School, in Kelly, Louisiana, and soon after graduation, Tommy moved to Port Arthur, Texas to begin working in and around the oilfield and for the City of Port Arthur before joining the United States Navy on September 9, 1963. Tommy became a welder in the US Navy and obtained a rank of SFP3 by the time he completed his service on May 19, 1967. After his service in the US Navy was completed, Tommy went to work for Texaco/American Cyanamide Petro Chemical Plant until June 1973 when he left to pursue his music career.

On November 18, 1967, Tommy was united in marriage to Phyllis Haley at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Beaumont, Texas. He and his wife Phyllis began playing music locally during his time at the Petro Chemical plant and finally it was time to make the jump to full-time music and entertainment. They began performing at local shows more often and after some recognition they started contracting more jobs until they were able to get bookings covering most of the United States and parts of Canada.

Tommy was a lifelong musician and singer who wanted a career in the entertainment industry. He had received his first guitar at age 4 and would play and sing along with the music on old country and western radio shows while traveling with his parents across the country from job to job for his

father's work. These early days cemented a fond love of not only music but a deep love for travel and wanderlust. Tommy took advantage of any opportunity to perform and entertain as he grew up and initially set a goal to move to California in pursuit of an acting career but later focused more on his love of music. He traveled extensively singing and performing with his band, The Gypsy Caravan, before eventually settling in Austin, Texas to start a family and focus on more regional shows. Later Tommy and Phyllis moved to the Houston area with their children, and he started working in construction and the oil field as a QC/QA Inspector for different inspection groups working on Sub-Sea projects for various oil companies between 1998 and 2007. During his time in Houston, he continued to perform in many shows around Texas and was a member and regular comedy skit actor and singer at the The Texas Opry Jamboree. Tommy retired to Bastrop, Texas in 2001 while still working part time and formed H.I.S., a Gospel music group. He and his wife Phyllis along with others played at churches and private functions during this time.

Tommy performed comedy and drama on stage as well as in films and commercials. He was a member of the Country Music Association and a BMI song writer and had a Country Singles Pick in the #4 spot with his Single "In The Arms of a Beautiful Woman" in 1981 with his debut release. He won numerous awards as "Entertainer of the Year" and "Male Vocalist of the Year" at The Texas Opry Jamboree.

Always the entertainer, Tommy loved to make people laugh and genuinely had a love for connecting with people through his musical ability and his great personality. He spent his life dedicated to trying to improve the lives of others through music, entertainment, humor and a kind loving heart.

Tommy passed away the evening of Thursday, May 15, 2025, surrounded by his family, at his home in Bastrop.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Andrew and Ethel Hodges.

Tommy is survived by his singing partner and wife, Phyllis Hodges of Bastrop; two children, Rustin Hodges & his wife, Lisa of Paige and Crystal Iselt & her husband, Tracy of Fedor; nine grandchildren; sixteen great grandchildren, and several nieces, nephews and many friends.

A family gathering to remember and celebrate Tommy's life will be held at a future date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the charity of one's choice.

Tribute Wall

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“ I just learned of your passing, I had know you all my life and I loved you so! Your music will always be in my heart. Your talent is unmatched! I loved seeing you at Walmart and that big grin you'd get when I would tell people who you were at that you were amazingly talented and show the staff the videos of you and your band mates playing music. Thank you, for being a father figure and all the wisdom and love you shared!



Shellie Miller - February 21 at 05:05 AM