



## Thomas "Tommy" Earl Russell

December 13, 1961 - January 18, 2015

Thomas (Tommy) Earl Russell, 53, of Payson, Arizona, formerly of Morrilton, went to be with the lord January 18, 2015. He was born in Morrilton, Arkansas, on December 13, 1961 to the Late Thomas Paul Russell and Juanita Hubbard. He was of the Church of Christ faith.

He is survived by his mother Juanita and step-father Bill Hubbard, of Morrilton two brothers Curtis and wife Shirley of Solgohachia, Donnie and wife Lagina of Morrilton, nephews, James & Michael and nieces Paula and Bailey Russell. Step brother, Jeffery Hubbard and wife Victoria, of Frisco Texas. Step Sister Teena Jenkins and husband Vincent of Wichita, Kansas, and numerous uncles, aunts and cousins. He is preceded in death by his father Paul Russell and grandparents, Tommy and Lucille Russell.

He was a graduate of Morrilton High School class of 1980, Graduate of the Art Institute of Houston, Texas.

In 1983 he moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, and took a job with Whittle Communications as a Graphic Designer. Working for HGTV where he remained for 26 years. He then moved back to Houston, Texas, where he went to work for Garden Ridge as a designer. Tom was an artist, photographer and an avid quilter, making several appearances on television and several speaking engagements teaching people how to quilt. His talents received national acclaim and included designing the Olympic pens for the Coke-Cola Bottling Company at the Atlanta Olympic Games and having a quilt being placed in the Texas Quilt Museum. Tom continued to quilt and post to his

internet blog until his illness advanced to the point that he was no longer able always ending each blog with BFF (best friends forever).

Memorial services will be 3:00 p.m. Thursday, February 5, at the Harris Chapel with Mr. Charles Bane officiating. Burial will be private.

Arrangements are by Harris Funeral Home of Morrilton.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas "Tommy" Earl Russell*

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January 30, 2023 at 02:08 AM



“ *Curtis and family,*

*I am so very sorry to hear of Tom's passing. May you all take comfort in knowing that he is now in the arms of our Heavenly Father. You and your entire family are in my thoughts and prayers, and please don't hesitate to call if you need anything. I love you all so very much!!!*

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**Lynlee Holland** - June 29, 2018 at 07:39 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to the family.*

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**Euna Beavers** - June 29, 2018 at 07:39 PM



“ *MHS class of 80 remembers you with love. You were a very kind and funny person. May God bless your family and help them with their grief.*

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**Lisa McKuin Neihouse** - June 29, 2018 at 07:39 PM

KO

“ I met Tom when he attended a longarm quilting workshop in my studio with a "national teacher" in 2006. My first impression was how gracious and humble he was when the guest teacher wanted to know if he brought any of his work to share, his reply "It's not about me, I came to learn from you." Not long afterwards he was the guest speaker at a local guild and I actually got to see his work and hear his story. Tom had a way of making you laugh with his animations of story telling and at the same time magically make you believe in yourself in that you could create whatever your little heart desired by continually learning and "adding to your toolbox.". He was contagious joy. I loved how he would make you feel like you were the most important person in the room when he was talking to you, when in reality he was the most important person in the room. Whenever we saw each other, no matter how long between visits, it was so unique that we just "picked up where we left off". I am so thankful that we had some visiting time together at the 2014 International Quilt Market and Festival. It's not going to be the same next year without his hugs. To Tom's family and friends I want to add my condolences and prayers. Tom was a one of a kind treasure that will be missed not only in the quilting world but to all whose lives he touched. He was loved, and I miss him more than words can describe. May God's peace that passes understanding comfort your hearts in this time of sorrow. One of Tom's quilting friends, Karen O in TX

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**Karen Overton** - June 29, 2018 at 07:39 PM

BB

“ Juanita, so sad to hear this, much love to you.

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**Beverly brown** - June 29, 2018 at 07:39 PM

JD

“ Tommy was always such a friendly person to be around. I remember his wonderful smile. He was also a very talented person. My thoughts and prayers go out the the family.

*With Sympathy  
Janet Toler Davis*

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**JANET TOLER DAVIS** - June 29, 2018 at 07:39 PM

MB

“ Juanita, Curtis, Donnie & the entire family  
So very sorry to hear of your loss. Although it has been several years since the last time I saw Tommy, I remember him as being a sweet young man with great talents.  
May the good lord give comfort to all of you at this most difficult time

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**Mary burgener** - June 29, 2018 at 07:39 PM

JQ

“ So very sorry for your loss.

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**Jo Quinn** - June 29, 2018 at 07:39 PM

CP

“ Please accept our sincere condolences

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**Chester and Mary payne** - June 29, 2018 at 07:39 PM

CC

“ So sorry for your loss. Prayers for the family.

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**Carrie Cannon** - June 29, 2018 at 07:39 PM

JY

“ Juanita, My prayers are with you during this difficult time. Have comfort in knowing Tom is whole again and no longer suffering. Tom was like a brother to me and truly the best friend I ever had. RIP Tom!

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**Jana Yonker** - June 29, 2018 at 07:39 PM

KS

“ I'm so sorry, Juanita.. this is linda graves' daughter. I do remember him & his drawing on downtown building, I forgot where exactly at. may god be with you & rest of your family...

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**Kelly Graves Surratt** - June 29, 2018 at 07:39 PM

KR

“ Tommy was such a joy in the lives of me and my two daughters. I met Tommy when he was sixteen. I ended up leaving Arkansas for Michigan. It was a sad day for us to say goodbye to Tommy. we all cried...As I remember at that time he had been accepted by Disney Studios to work on cartoons. That was the last time we saw him. What a handsome man he became and so talented!!! I am proud to have known him and to have been able to call him friend....A great loss! Karen, Jill and Angie.

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**Karen Rossi-Bergin** - June 29, 2018 at 07:39 PM

KR

“ May all of you find peace and hope in Tommys passing...for there is another Angel in Heaven

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**Karen Rossi-Bergin** - June 29, 2018 at 07:39 PM

JS

“ Tommy was a very kind, talented person. I am sorry & my prayers go out to his family. This is truly a great loss of a wonderful person but he is with God now.????

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**Jill Smith** - June 29, 2018 at 07:39 PM

KT

“ Juanita and family; so very sorry in the loss of your precious son. Sounds like he really lived life to the fullest, and was much loved and adored. I pray God will provide you all with much comfort and peace during this difficult season. Again so sorry! (Psalm 121)

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**Kathy Beard Taylor** - June 29, 2018 at 07:39 PM

JS

“ Juanita and family, I am so sorry for your loss. I remember when Tommy and several others, painted the murals on some of the buildings, down town. He was a very talented man... My thoughts and prayers are with you.. May God Bless all of you.

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**Judee Stacks Stephens** - February 02, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Truly my best friend forever. Rest in peace until we meet again. All our love.

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February 01, 2015 at 12:00 AM