

Kendall S. Thomas, Sr.

Kendall S. Thomas, Sr. was born August 11, 1932 in Austin Texas. He was the first born son of Sidney Cone Thomas and Elva Lucy Herridge. Kendall attended Austin High School where he met the love of his life, Lady Ann Childress. Kendall was a lifelong member of the Church of Christ and was an active member of various Austin Area churches including Govalle, University Hills, Cameron Road and Bastrop Church of Christ until his health prevented him from attending.

Kendall retired on December 31, 1985 after serving more than 32 years with the Austin Police Department rising to the rank of Assistant Police Chief and Acting Chief of Police. Kendall was well respected by the rank and file officers and was known and appreciated for his integrity and strong advocacy for his officers. He often sparred with City Council and the City Manager to protect the Department from inappropriate political interference.

In 1980, Kendall became a member of the Board of Directors of the Austin Police Retirement System. Kendall was instrumental in the establishment of this system upon its' exit from under the control of the City of Austin. He served as Chairman of the Board for many years. Kendall and his wife Ann loved their work with the Pension Board and attended many conferences and events on its behalf. He was an early advocate of diversifying the assets of the Pension Fund and became a nationwide expert on the use of Timber farms as an integral part of the investment philosophy.

Kendall served 25 years on the Austin Police Retirement System Board and retired in 2005. The Fund's Headquarters Building was named for him and Chesley Wood to honor their exemplary service to the Board.

Kendall loved APD and working on behalf of the Pension Board, but his greatest love was Lady Ann Childress who he married on June 8, 1952. Their love story began many years before while attending church together. Their love story truly was one for the ages as everyone knew them as "Kendall and Ann". They were inseparable until Lady Ann passed away May 18, 2020 just short of their 68th wedding anniversary.

Kendall is survived by his two children, Kendall S. Thomas, Jr. and wife, Glynnna Kirk Thomas of League City, Texas and Laurel Ann Thomas Sanborn and David Sanborn of Sunrise Beach, Texas. He also is survived by his cherished younger brother, James Winston Thomas of Little River-Academy, Texas. Grandchildren are James Peter Sanborn, Katherine Ann Thomas Thomasser, Karen Elizabeth Thomas Schultz and Cody Kendall Thomas.

Great grandchildren, Daniel James Thomasser, Penelope Ann Schultz and Miller Ann Sanborn.

Kendall was preceded in death by his son, Charles Travis Thomas and brother, Millard Clinton Thomas.

Visitation to be held Friday, October 20, 2023 at Harrell Funeral Home, 4435 Frontier Trail, Austin, Texas from 6 to 8 pm. Funeral Services at Harrell Funeral Home, Saturday, October 21, 2023 at 11 am. Burial to follow at Oakwood Cemetery Annex, 1600 Comal Street, Austin, Texas. Pallbearers are Kevin Thomas, Keith Thomas, Kurt Thomas, Chris Smyth, Peter Sanborn and Cody Thomas.

The family wishes to thank the staff at Celeste Care of Horseshoe Bay for the love and care they provided for Kendall during his final days and the staff of Enhabit Hospice of Marble Falls. Special thanks to Chaplin Gavin Rorie.