



Larry Dale Thornton

June 1, 1949 - April 18, 2025

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Larry Dale Thornton, age 75, of Russellville, Alabama, passed away peacefully on April 18, 2025.

A celebration of Larry's life will be held on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Russellville.

Larry was preceded in death by his loving parents, James and Joyce Thornton; his precious son, Joseph Brandon Thornton; his beloved bulldogs, Cooper and Crimson; brothers, Ronnie Thornton and Greg Thornton; his aunt and uncle, Jeanette and Curtis Grissom; and dear friends, Tinker Malone, Bill Lucas, and many others whose memories he held close to his heart.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Nancy Thornton; his cherished grandson, Greyson Thornton; beloved daughter-in-law, Amanda Thornton; his brother, Jeff Thornton (Dee); and a wide circle of lifelong friends from the railroad, Russellville High School Class of 1967, and Jeff Bowling's Sunday School class at Russellville First Baptist Church. He was also blessed with two "special daughters," Hayley Malone Fuller and Elizabeth Lucas Wilson.

Larry was a proud graduate of Russellville High School and earned his bachelor's degree in 1971 from Florence State College, now the University of North Alabama. He went on to dedicate 38 years of service as an engineer with Norfolk Southern Railroad, where he formed many lasting friendships.

A true outdoorsman, Larry found joy in hunting, fishing, and spending time with his son Joey in nature — passions they eagerly shared with anyone interested in learning. The Alabama coast held a special place in his heart, and he often found peace sitting in a chair on the shoreline, watching the waves and seabirds.

Larry's love for the University of Alabama ran deep — especially for the Crimson Tide football team. Along with being immensely proud of Joey's accomplishments during his time at the University, Larry and Nancy became known for their legendary Tide Tailgates, where friends and strangers alike were welcomed with good food, laughter, and true Southern hospitality. On game days, you could always find him holding court under the tents at the Capstone Hotel — a welcoming presence for all.

Larry will be remembered for his loyalty, sense of humor, and the deep love he had for his family, friends, and community. His legacy lives on through the lives he touched and the memories he helped create.

Cemetery Details

Franklin Memory Gardens

2710 Waterloo Road
Russellville, AL

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR **22**. 3:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Russellville
Russellville, AL 35653