



## Thomas A Franks Jr

June 29, 1925 - October 28, 2022

Thomas A. Franks Jr. age 97, of Russellville, passed from this life on Friday, October 28, 2022.

Mr. Franks was preceded in death by his wife of sixty four year, LaRue V. Taylor Franks; brothers, Charles, Franklin, and James; sister, Louise.

He is survived by two sons, Michael, and wife Robin, and Carl; one granddaughter, Samantha and husband Kyle.

Mr. Franks was a lifelong resident of Franklin County, most in Russellville, except for the time in the Army, during World War II. He served in both European and South Pacific theaters as a combat engineer with the rank of Sergeant.

He was employed by Robbins Tire and Rubber Company before attending Florence State University, where he earned a B.S. degree. He attended Vanderbilt's School for Educational Administrators, Peabody College, earning a Master's degree and completed additional study at the University of Alabama and Auburn University. He also served on Auburn University's advisory staff for two years. He was employed by the Russellville Board of Education for over 30 years, serving most of them as principal of Russellville Middle School. The five best things that ever happened to him were his wife,

his two boys, his granddaughter, the US Army and working in the Russellville School System.

There will be a visitation held at Pinkard Funeral Home of Russellville on Tuesday, November 1, 2022 from 5:00pm-7:00pm, and Wednesday, November 2, 2022, afternoon from 12 noon – 1:00pm. The graveside service will follow at 1:30pm at Franklin Memory Gardens.

Pinkard Funeral Home of Russellville assisted the family.

# Cemetery Details

## Franklin Memory Gardens

2710 Waterloo Road  
Russellville, AL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 1. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Pinkard Funeral Home  
27305 Hwy 24 East  
P.O. Box 502  
Russellville, AL 35653  
(256) 332-7772  
<http://www.pinkardfh.com>

## Visitation

NOV 2. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Pinkard Funeral Home  
27305 Hwy 24 East  
P.O. Box 502  
Russellville, AL 35653  
(256) 332-7772  
<http://www.pinkardfh.com>

## Graveside Service

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NOV 2. 1:30 PM (CT)

Franklin Memory Gardens  
2710 Waterloo Road  
Russellville, AL

# Tribute Wall



“ *Pinkard Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas A Franks Jr*



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**Pinkard Funeral Home** - October 31, 2022 at 04:37 PM

BB

“ *Mr. Franks was a dedicated teacher. He had the student's best interest at heart. He wrote a very meaningful note in my senior yearbook (1965). I have not looked at my yearbook in years, but I have never forgotten what he wrote. Rest eternal Mr. Franks.*

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**Bill Bragwell** - November 04, 2022 at 07:22 PM

DG

“ *This Danny Gist Russellville High School class of 1961. Mr Franks was my 10th grade American History teacher. He and Larue went to EastSide Church of Christ with us for lot of years until Larue took sick and passed away. I always like him in later years. During school he was a tough teacher, like I said to someone today, he wanted to teach us but we didn't want to learn. Sorry I missed you today. Mr Franks was a good man, I am proud to have known him and Larue was a very good woman. Sorry for your loss. Danny Gist*

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**Danny Gist** - November 02, 2022 at 05:31 PM

RM

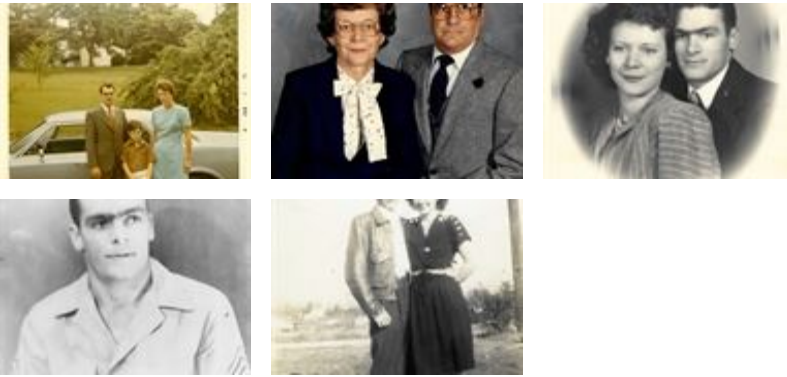
“ Ray Malone lit a candle in memory of Thomas Franks



Ray Malone - October 31, 2022 at 10:01 PM



“ 94 files added to the album Life Tributes



Pinkard Funeral Home - October 31, 2022 at 04:24 PM

RS

“ Mr. Franks was the director of a Federal program funded to assure a smooth integration of the Russellville City School when I arrived here in 1967. He would later be named principal of Russellville Junior High School where I taught math and coached football. Tom was always kind and fair with a great sense of what was right and wrong. He selected me to be his assistant and for the next eight years I grew to admire him for his wisdom and unwavering commitment to doing what was right. Mr. Franks was a devoted family man and a fine Christian. I consider it my honor to have known and learned from him and will forever be thankful for his friendship. Mr. Franks was a true patriot and served his country well, one of his many roles in RCS was teaching classes to returning Service vets to help them complete their high school diplomas and find jobs after returning from military service. I recall on many occasions the acts of kindness and generosity he performed to anyone less fortunate or who had simply fallen on hard times. Having outlived most of those with whom he worked and for those of us still alive owe him a great debt of gratitude and thanks for the contributions he made to our lives and his service to our community. Mr. Franks was a faithful and constant reminder to all of what makes America the great land of freedom and justice that we cherish today. Thank you Mr. Franks we value our memories of you and we are certain of your final resting place with the Lord.



Rocky Stone - October 31, 2022 at 08:13 AM

MF

Rocky, I appreciate your thoughtfulness. I want you to know that many times in his final years he talked about you many times and told me you were the finest man he ever knew. I wanted you to know that. Mike Franks

Mike Franks - November 01, 2022 at 08:42 PM

MF

*Rocky, I want you to know that he said many times you were the finest man he ever knew. We appreciate your thoughts. Mike Franks*

Mike Franks - November 01, 2022 at 08:58 PM

R(

“ *Rebecca Williams (Becky) lit a candle in memory of Thomas Franks*



Rebecca P Williams (Becky) - October 30, 2022 at 10:05 PM

JL

“ *Please accept my condolences on your loss. I knew Mr Franks as my junior high principals in the early 1970s. I appreciate the example he provided for a bunch of jr high kiddos back in the day. I remember that we had the pledge of allegiance and a morning prayer daily. It's not something we had when I moved to Kentucky in 9 th grade. Thank you for sharing your dad with us . Praying for you all.*

Joanna Lynch - October 30, 2022 at 01:44 PM

MF

*He was a great teacher*

mary Flippen - October 31, 2022 at 01:35 PM

MF

*He was always helpful to his students never heard him raise his voice.*

mary Flippen - October 31, 2022 at 01:37 PM

AT

“*Mr. Franks was a fine Christian man and I am so grateful to have had a patriotic man of God leading our Russellville Junior High school for the years I was there in the early 1970's.*

*It was a somewhat rocky experience during my first month in a new town and a new school system because there were racial protests over cheerleader elections and there were walkouts en masse' of the involved football players, the girls who wanted representation and did receive it, and all of us who had classes disrupted by the actions. I came from a much different school climate, a peaceful town on the N.E. side of Alabama, and was a very scared little girl.*

*Mr. Franks was always calm and kind, and we listened to his messages about doing good things and loving God, as it was not disallowed in those years to pray and to have both secular and religious music played over the intercom system at times. I do not believe I would have survived the turbulence of the transitions from the 60's to the 70's and from my beloved hometown to the place my father was transferred to in his career as a manager of the ALDOT.*

*Thank you, sir, for your service to your country and to your countless students you managed with kindness and a smile that reached your eyes when each of us who were so inclined greeted you warmly on campus.*

*I knew Mr. Franks as an adult when his brother was in ICU and then passed away, and we bonded in a new and mature way as caregiver to hurting brother, and as a young adult to a mature adult. I always respected him and had a chance to tell him thus as an adult.*

*God bless the Franks family. I know he loved all of you dearly, and you will miss him always. He is in a perfect place of peace and rest now after a very long life.*

*I will remember the lessons he taught me and the special friendship we developed as adult to adult.*

*Sincerely,  
Amanda Rooks Turnock  
Granbury, Texas  
Formerly Russellville, Alabama*

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**Amanda Rooks Turnock** - October 29, 2022 at 02:32 AM

AT

“ *Amanda Turnock lit a candle in memory of Thomas Franks*



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**Amanda Rooks Turnock** - October 29, 2022 at 02:19 AM

R(

*Excellent History teacher - He was my teacher in the new high school at the time; the first class to go through all 4 years there.*

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**Rebecca P Williams (Becky)** - October 30, 2022 at 09:54 PM