



## Mr. Thomas Luther Darnell Jr.

October 18, 1952 - May 17, 2020

Mr. Thomas Luther Darnell Jr. age 67, of Forrest City, Arkansas died on Sunday, May 17, 2020 at the Baptist Hospital in Little Rock.

Mr. Darnell was born October 18, 1952 in Farmville, Virginia. He was the son of Thomas Luther Darnell Sr. and Eula Katherine Ayres Darnell. Mr. Darnell has lived in Forrest City for the past 46 years splitting time between teaching and the technology department. He also coached Junior High football and basketball and did broadcast for the highschool football games. He was an avid golfer and enjoyed his computers. Mr. Darnell was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Forrest City.

Mr. Darnell married Jimma Lou Castor in 1976. She survives him along with two daughters, Amy Katheryn Rains and husband John of Horn Lake, Mississippi and Stephanie LeAnn Birmingham and husband Collin of Lawrence, Georgia. Two grandchildren also survive him Noah and David Rains.

Funeral services will be held Friday, May 22, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at Stevens Funeral Home. Visitation will be at 1:00 p.m. before the service. Visit online directory at [stevensfuneralhome.net](http://stevensfuneralhome.net). In lieu of flowers the family request memorials be made to the Forrest City Humane Society. (Due to covid 19 restrictions the funeral service will be limited to 50 persons.)



# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY **22**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Stevens Funeral Home  
220 North Washington  
Forrest City, AR 72335  
(870) 633-5400  
info@stevensfuneralhome.net  
<https://www.stevensfuneralhome.net/>

## Service

MAY **22**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Stevens Funeral Home  
220 North Washington  
Forrest City, AR 72335  
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# Tribute Wall

DF

“ Were it not for Tom taking a two year break from teaching social studies at FCJHS, I (David) probably would have never gotten the chance to work for the FCSD. Because of that break, I was hired in his place and taught at FCJHS from 1991 to 1993 and then re-hired back in 2007 until I retired in 2019. For that I owe Tom everything because working for them was the highlight of my career! I enjoyed working alongside Tom when he became the computer guy for the district and he always worked very hard to make sure the district was on top of everything. Such a great guy, outstanding Christian, and really great teacher too! He cared very much about Forrest City and the FCSD. He certainly will be missed. God bless you Tom and enjoy time in heaven! Prayers are with you Jimma our friend, and the whole family!

Sincerely,  
David and Tammy Freligh  
Ian and Anna Coombe

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David and Tammy Freligh - June 29, 2020 at 10:38 AM

LL

“ I could always depend on Tom helping me with any computer problem I had. He was always nice to me and it was greatly appreciated. I am praying for y'all. I was proud to call him my friend.

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Lori Leslie - May 23, 2020 at 07:47 PM

AS

“ I have fond memories of Tommy, playing guitar in church, praying together in our teen prayer group, volunteering in and through our church in West Helena, being part of the local Up With People group, playing rock music with friends, raising money for Hurricane Camille relief, helping him and his Mom move. We have loosely stayed in touch these past couple of years through Facebook and I have respected and appreciated his thoughtful and intelligent posts. I will miss being able to reach out and share thoughts with Tommy, but know that he is where he needs to be in the embrace of God's love forevermore.

Allen Snider - May 22, 2020 at 11:03 AM

PH

“ Sending thoughts and prayers to you and your family at this difficult time. So happy that Stephanie was able to reconnect with you and Tom. Sweet memories....

Patricia Higgs - May 22, 2020 at 09:40 AM

PH

“ Stephanie ask me to send this on her behalf. So saddened to learn of Mr Darnell's passing. So many sweet memories of the two of you.

Patricia Higgs - May 22, 2020 at 09:36 AM

PH

“ Patricia Higgs lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Luther Darnell Jr.



Patricia Higgs - May 22, 2020 at 09:06 AM

SR

“ Stephanie Higgs Redfearn lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Luther Darnell Jr.



Stephanie Higgs Redfearn - May 22, 2020 at 08:34 AM

SR

“ Stephanie Higgs Redfearn lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Luther Darnell Jr.



Stephanie Higgs Redfearn - May 22, 2020 at 08:32 AM

PH

“ Patricia Higgs lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Luther Darnell Jr.



Patricia Higgs - May 22, 2020 at 08:29 AM

PH

“ Patricia Higgs lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Luther Darnell Jr.



Patricia Higgs - May 22, 2020 at 08:24 AM

OL

“ *Odetta Bradley Lay lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Luther Darnell Jr.*



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**Odetta Bradley Lay** - May 22, 2020 at 06:21 AM

JC

“ *Tom played a vital role in preparing the presentation Erdell, Linda and I gave in Washington, D.C., for the National Council on Economic Education. He worked days and days helping us create a piece that was a concise yet thorough representation of our methods and procedures in the Blue Notes of Economics. He was always patient assisting ones who knew so little about technology and explaining it on a level such novices could grasp (or at least implement). Jimma, our prayers go out to you.*  
*Janet Hodges Cagle*

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**Janet Cagle** - May 21, 2020 at 05:15 PM

PG

“ *Patricia Graves lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Luther Darnell Jr.*



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**Patricia Graves** - May 20, 2020 at 08:37 PM

AW

“ *Annette Wilson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Luther Darnell Jr.*



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**Annette Wilson** - May 20, 2020 at 06:34 PM

RB

“ *Brad and I are thinking of you - Jimma, Amy, Stephanie - as you go through such a hard time. We enjoy our memories of Tom as a co-worker and friend. God Bless.*

*Love,*

*Rush Beavers*

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**Rush Beavers** - May 20, 2020 at 06:31 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Thomas Luther Darnell Jr..*



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May 20, 2020 at 04:46 PM

SH

“ *Shirley Haggins sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Thomas Luther Darnell Jr.*



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**Shirley Haggins** - May 20, 2020 at 01:51 PM

TB

“ *Tammy Beck lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Luther Darnell Jr.*



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**Tammy Beck** - May 20, 2020 at 05:41 AM



“ *Debra and I extend our sincere condolences to the Darnell Family*

*Frank and Debra Shaw*



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**Frank Shaw III** - May 19, 2020 at 06:28 PM

ES

“ *Erica Scott lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Luther Darnell Jr.*



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**Erica Scott** - May 19, 2020 at 03:34 PM

LF

“ *I remember Mr. Darnell fondly. He was my teacher in jr. High. He listened to a lot of rambling of a student and help me make it through those years. He was a very good and caring teacher! I am so sorry for your loss.*

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**LeAnne Foust** - May 19, 2020 at 03:00 PM

SP

“ Sending love to Jimma, Amy and Stephanie. I only met Tom a few times but always had so much fun with him.

Steph Phenix - May 19, 2020 at 01:48 PM

LE

“ Lewis Etheridge lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Luther Darnell Jr.



Lewis Etheridge - May 19, 2020 at 10:08 AM

RT

*My condolence to the family R.i.p..classmate*

Rodney Tabron - May 19, 2020 at 04:50 PM

RT

*My condolence to the family R.i.p classmate*

Rodney Tabron - May 19, 2020 at 04:51 PM

PT

“ Dearest Jimma, Amy, and Stephanie,

*I am so sorry for your loss and ours, dear family.*



*My favorite memory of "Sonny" I associate with the song "Lemon Tree". Sonny and Aunt Eula came to visit us in our home at the time in Portsmouth, Virginia in the early 70's. We lived in the parsonage next door to the church. Sonny was several years older and very handsome. He sang and played the guitar very well and I remember sitting with our neighborhood friends on the steps of our Methodist Church doing singalongs. The song I remember most vividly was his rendition of Lemon Tree.*

*"Lemon Tree very pretty and the lemon flower is sweet, but the fruit of the poor lemon is impossible to eat..."*

*I was so proud that this talented, fun-loving guy was my cousin and I think I was kind of "showing him off" to my friends. I never see a lemon tree without humming that tune and thinking of him.*

*May you all find great comfort in sweet memories and the arms of those you hold most dear.*

*Much love,  
Patti (Ayres) Talbot (Tom's cousin - one of 20!)  
Blacksburg, Virginia*

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**Patti Talbot** - May 19, 2020 at 09:25 AM

ST

“ *Darnell family, So sorry for Mr. Darnell passing. My thoughts and prayers are with your family at this difficult time.*



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**Shirley Williams Thorn** - May 18, 2020 at 06:44 PM