



## Thomas Julius Mason

July 18, 1950 - November 29, 2025

Thomas Julius Mason

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Thomas Julius Mason, 75, passed away on November 29, 2025, surrounded by the love of his family. Born in Muskegon, Michigan, on July 18, 1950, Tom built a life marked by dedication, integrity, humor, and an unwavering sense of who he was.

A graduate of the University of Michigan with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, Tom began his career with a deep curiosity for how things worked and a commitment to improving the world around him. After moving to Greenville, South Carolina, in 1976, he spent 35 years with the Greenville Hospital System in facilities development and purchasing roles, where he led major initiatives that supported the hospital's growth and its mission of caring for the community. He retired after a long and distinguished career, remembered for his reliability, steady leadership, and thoughtful approach to every project.

Tom's personality was unmistakable: he possessed a sharp wit, a profound sense of sarcasm, and the classic Mason stubborn streak. Once he made up his mind—whether about tackling a project or refusing one—it was nearly impossible to persuade him otherwise. He had a particular way things ought to be done: loading the dishwasher with engineering precision, balancing his checkbook to the penny each month, and steadfastly declining to participate in online banking no matter how the world changed around him.

He found great joy in life's simple pleasures: the companionship of his beloved pets, Sam and Jaxx; his heated, vibrating La-Z-Boy recliner; morning coffee and sweet pastries; cheering for University of Michigan football and the Atlanta Braves; and time spent visiting with friends and family. He introduced his children to the joy of reading—an influence that stuck firmly with Katie—and passed along his own blend of practical philosophies, from Occam's Razor to the good-humored admonition, "Don't get mad—get even."

Tom loved his family deeply and reveled in spoiling his grandchildren. Birthdays meant a carte-blanche trip to the toy store, where Grandpa delighted in saying yes to whatever they chose. When Leah and Trip were young, he cherished their weekly Dollar Store outings—rituals that often ended with his wallet considerably lighter and his heart considerably fuller. All children and animals were naturally drawn to him; his calm, steady presence lulled many a restless little one—or family pet—to sleep on his lap.

For more than twenty years, Tom made his home in Travelers Rest with his beloved wife of 22 years, Yvonne. He is survived by Yvonne Mason; his children, Katie (Derek) Conrad and Tim Mason; and his stepdaughter, Kim (Robbie) Cole. He was a devoted and joyful grandfather to Jacob Gaillard, Nigel Gaillard, Kensley Conrad, Leah Cole, and Trip Cole.

Tom was predeceased by his parents, Joseph and Margaret Mason; his brother Joe and sister-in-law Dee; and his sister Betty Ann Dugas and brother-in-law Ron. He is survived by his little brother, Dennis Mason, and sister-in-law Jeanne, along with a niece and six nephews.

Tom will be remembered for his humor, his generosity, his fierce loyalty, and the love he poured into his family. His presence was steady, strong, and deeply felt—and he will be profoundly missed.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, December 5, 2025 at 2:00 PM at the Howze Mortuary, 6714 State Park Rd., Travelers Rest, SC.

Arrangements will be handled by Howze Mortuary.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

DEC 5. 2:00 PM (ET)

The Howze Mortuary Chapel  
6714 State Park Rd.  
Travelers Rest  
Travelers Rest, SC 29690  
[thehowzemortuary@yahoo.com](mailto:thehowzemortuary@yahoo.com)

# Tribute Wall

JS

“ Remembering my friend and mentor, Tom Mason, today. He was one of a kind and taught me to be very detailed in my daily activities at the Greenville Hospital System Facilities Development Department. Naturally, being detailed has carried over into my personal life activities. Although it has been a while since we've visited, I thought of Tom often over the years and he will be missed by many!



**Jeanne Segers** - December 05, 2025 at 09:06 AM

KC

*Thank you for sharing Jeanne. My Dad was fond of you and appreciated all of your good support for so many years.*

**Katie Conrad** - December 06, 2025 at 06:28 PM

PW

“ Libby was there when Tom transferred from Facilities Development to Capital Procurement at GHS, and she worked with him until he retired. This picture was made April 2024.



**Philip Watson** - December 04, 2025 at 05:48 PM

KC

*What a great picture. Thank you Philip and Libby!*

**Katie Conrad** - December 06, 2025 at 06:29 PM

PW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Philip Watson** - December 04, 2025 at 03:09 PM

PH

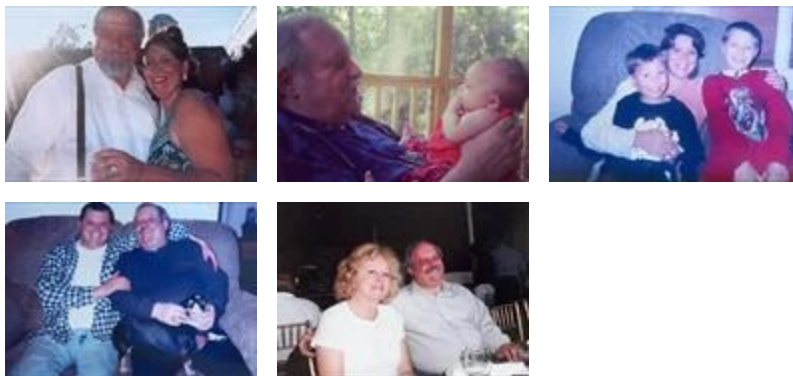
“ Pat Hawkins lit a candle in memory of Thomas Mason



**Pat Hawkins** - December 04, 2025 at 04:58 AM

KC

“ Going through pictures reminded me of so many great times. My Dad was the best ever and he is already missed.



**Katie Conrad** - December 03, 2025 at 06:13 PM

PW

*Love your pictures and these heartfelt words about your Dad!*

**Philip Watson** - December 04, 2025 at 03:05 PM

JG

“ *Janet Buchanan Gravely lit a candle in memory of Thomas Mason*



**Janet Buchanan Gravely** - December 03, 2025 at 05:16 PM

PW

“ *Starting in 1998, I worked with and for Tom for 12 years and have remained in contact with him since his retirement. Tom was brilliant... so detail oriented, such a good person and boss. I really enjoyed working with him and appreciate the friendship we developed over the years. Many people don't know what all Tom did for our community for the hospital system. He was a key person in building it and making it a System of excellence. He has been missed at work, and now we will miss his presence with us here. My heart goes out to the family (and friends), and I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers. Yvonne, I am here for you if needed. Thanks for keeping me in the loop since last month. I was so glad I got to visit with Tom and you a couple of Saturdays ago. I will always cherish that memory and all our good times together. Take care. (Philip W.)*

**Philip Watson** - December 03, 2025 at 04:07 PM

KC

*Dad spoke so highly of you Philip and valued your friendship. Thank you for your kind words. Katie*

**Katie Conrad** - December 03, 2025 at 06:07 PM

J1

*Tom was one of my very best friends when we worked together in Facilities Development and Construction as part of the Greenville Hospital System. He outlived me at GHS by 15 or 16 years. I stole him from the Purchasing Department of GHS. We needed him badly to keep us prepared for high end and expensive medical equipment that was being purchased in order to serve the fantastic Greenville County and beyond. Tom was excellent in his field and kept abreast of all new equipment coming to us. We did not have an easy job in our department as we were always trying to maintain budgets, schedules and sometimes rough times with some of the design and construction organizations supporting us. But we did it well! Our small department had a staff of Men and Women that exceeded the expectations of the hospital leadership and Tom played a great part in making that happen. We had a GREAT TEAM! One of our difficulties where Tom helped us out a lot was Radiology Equipment. If we had a long term project lasting 2-4 years, by the time the project was designed and the construction was ready for the equipment to be purchased and installed, the equipment we thought we would use, was no longer being manufactured and that is where Tom came in, by staying up with the changes in equipment to make us ready for the new. My most fond memory of Tom was when one of the major hospital equipment companies flew us in a Learjet to a cornfield in Ohio where their farm and guest facilities were, to show us their manufacturing plants the next day. They provided us with a great meal and drinks. The 3 of us GHS guys there had enjoyed the experience well and Tom had basically determined that the 3 of us were the most important people in GHS and we ran the whole operation! Needless to say we all slept well that night !*

*John Thompson-Facilities Development and Construction*

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**John Thompson, Dept Director 1984-1997** - December 05, 2025 at 10:22 PM

KC

*What a great memory. Thank you, John! My Dad took great pride in his work with your team.*

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**Katie Conrad** - December 06, 2025 at 06:31 PM