



# Thomas "Tom" M. Kuykendall

May 23, 1939 - April 13, 2020

Thomas "Tom" Marlin Kuykendall

1939 - 2020

Tom was born to Leslie and Kate Kuykendall on May 23, 1939 in Bisbee, Arizona. He went home to be with his Heavenly Father April 13, 2020 at the age of 80. He passed away peacefully at home shortly after making his last trip up into the pasture to check his water and cows...just the way he would have wanted it. Thank you Lord!

Tom's grade school years were spent at Ash Creek School and graduated from high school from Valley Union. Attendance at Arizona State University was brief, as the ranch and a beautiful young lady beckoned him home! Before settling down, he worked for the Forest Service blading roads.

February 9, 1963 was a special day as he took Betty Jo "B.J." Gardner, the absolute love of his life, as his wife. Together they ranched, raised two children, and danced at least a million miles together!

Tom was a 5th generation cattle rancher and blessed to call IGO Ranches home all his life. He liked heavy calves, high grass, and a good rain! In his younger days, after the work was done, you could find him roping goats and calves, fishing with family and good friends, racing cars, playing a good game of golf, and welding in his shop...and of course, out on the dance floor! He was always a really good shot. He had a passion for building his own guns and loading his own ammunition. Needless to say, he saw to it that his family was always "loaded for bear" at the competition shoots they attended together... Loosing was not generally an option! He never missed an opportunity to mentor the competition either!

4-H and FFA were just two of the many youth organizations he volunteered his time for. He loved working with youth and could always be found helping others.

Tom was inducted into the Willcox Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2010. He considered this a true honor and was humbled by the vote of his peers!

Valley Telephone became very special to Tom. He was elected in 1999 to represent District #2 on the Board of Directors where he dedicated 21 years to serving and upholding the values of a member owned cooperative.

In his later years you could always find Tom surrounded by family, friends and best of all, those ornery and much loved great grandbabies.... and of course, still weighing up the heaviest calves in the neighborhood!

Tom's life will be celebrated in a private family service on the family ranch.

Tom was preceded in death by his precious wife B.J. Kuykendall, and Survivors include:

Children: Tammy Sue Smith (Steven) and William Marlin Kuykendall

Grandchildren: Steven Chance Smith (Iliana), Will Hadley Smith (Patricia) and Shaye Lynn Clemson (Tyler)

Great Grandchildren: Hagen Chase, Riley Jo, Grandy Lee Clemson and Foster Great Grandson, Mono; Cutter Bill, Reinie Mae and Ryder James Smith; Ella Sue, Gideon Les, Sadie Brooke, and Titus Chance Smith.

Cousin: Clarence "Casey" Kendall (Judy)

Contributions may be made to TEEN CHALLENGE, 2007 Sosia Road, Grenville, New Mexico 88424.

# Tribute Wall



“ Thomas "Tom" M. Kuykendall

January 30, 2023 at 12:50 AM



“ I was one grade ahead of Tommy at Valley Union High School. I was in 4H and FFA with Tommy. We took livestock to the Cochise County Fair and participated in various contests and events throughout the state. I always looked forward to seeing Tommy at the high school reunions where we were able to reminisce and update events in our lives. In our high school years Pug Scott's fiddle music was very popular to dance to. I remember the last time I saw Tommy, it was at Noel Morris's Restaurant in Elfrida. I had breakfast coffee with him, James Grizzle and several other locals. I was always amazed how Tommy was able to make a living through many lean years at his IGO Ranches. He was able to keep the family ranch and perpetuate the family ideals. He raised his kids in a Christian country environment, no tract house or traffic congestion there. I envied Tom being able to live on his ranch instead of living in a city, missing the country life as I did. With sympathy on the loss of your Father. To lose someone you loved so much is very hard to bear, but may God bless and comfort you and keep you in his care.

HILARY (HUGHES) MCMAHON

Hilary A McMahon - May 16, 2020 at 02:40 PM



“ From the Zamora Family; condolences to the family, our thoughts and prayers to the family. We will never forget the impact your parents had on us, as we attended Elfrida School. Mr. And Mrs Kuykendall impacted the lives of so many, they were kind and generous as they always gave of themselves. They will be remembered not only as friends, but as parents to not only their children but to many who knew them and attended the Elfrida schools! Your positive influence lives in us... and for this.. we thank you!

bunny arinello - May 09, 2020 at 02:36 AM

AM

“ Talked to Tommy not long ago at Safeway, it was good to catch up and store away another one of his perspectives; he had volumes and each and everyone worth keeping. We will miss his stories, his laugh and his knowledge, but those are things he left to each of you and it is wonderful that his legacy is so strong and seen in all of his family.

Anna Magoffin - April 17, 2020 at 07:43 AM

MS

“ Tommy and Betty Jo were fixtures in my life from an early age. My heart is saddened at your passing but rejoicing that you and BJ are reunited once again. I have visions that there is a dance in heaven this weekend and you guys and my folks will be cuttin a fine rug! Bless all of the family in this trying time and know that the Stark family is sending our thoughts for comfort your way.

Michael Stark - April 15, 2020 at 11:45 AM

TM

“ Sorry to hear of Tom's passing. Praying for the family. It has been a long time since I have seen any of them. But still have great memories of time spent together.

Trey Moses - April 15, 2020 at 08:03 AM

JD

“ My deepest condolences, to Tammy, Bill, and all your loved ones. I am so sad to hear of this. So many wonderful memories. My thoughts, prayers, and love are with you. Jacque Ratliff Díaz

Jacqueline Diaz - April 15, 2020 at 01:18 AM

CD

“ Tammy Sue, family and Bill. Sincere condolences to each of you. Your dad and mom were like two peas in a pod.



Carol Dickson - April 14, 2020 at 11:47 PM

GG

“ We are sorry to learn of this. Condolences to Tammy Sue and Steven, Bill and all their loved ones. Gary and Janice

Gary and Janice Graham - April 14, 2020 at 06:20 PM

NC

“ *Our condolences and prayers to Tammy, Bill and the family!!*

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**Nick & Lynn Cleckler** - April 14, 2020 at 05:25 PM



“ *Sending wishes for Peace for the family.*

*Patricia Riggs Inman*

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**Patricia Inman** - April 14, 2020 at 04:04 PM

DD

“ *An old friend. Remember the dances at Dragoon when he first started dating Betty Jo. Good times with Jimmy and Larry Kambitsch.*

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**Darlene DeArman** - April 14, 2020 at 03:48 PM

RJ

“ *My deepest condolences to Tammy, Bill and families*

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**Rhyna Jones** - April 14, 2020 at 03:07 PM