



Thomas Dawson Ender

July 12, 1949 - January 29, 2026

Thomas Dawson Ender, 76, went to be with our Lord on January 29, 2026. He was born on July 12, 1949, in Louisville, KY, to Margaret (nee: Dawson) and Philip Ender.

Tom graduated from Bishop David High School in 1967. He went on to attend Bellarmine University, where he worked on the grounds crew while he achieved his bachelor's in accounting. He started working with the Department of Juvenile Justice as a probation officer. He was instrumental in starting the police ride-along program, the drug rehabilitation program, and group counseling program. He achieved his master's in social development at University of Louisville while he was working. He moved on to become the best Supervisor for the Department of Juvenile Justice (as named by his team) and would often comment that he had the best team of workers that there ever was. He enlisted in the Army Reserves and served until he retired as a Master Sergeant. Tom enjoyed working with children, vacationing with his family, cooking, playing rounds of golf with his friends, and winning a few dollars at poker. He volunteered at St. Paul's with the Men's Club and fried the chicken for the picnic for years. He also volunteered with the Scouts Adventure Camp for years at Camp Crooked Creek, teaching special needs and at-risk children how to fish. The joys of his life were his girls, and nothing made him happier than being surrounded by his wife and daughters. In his last 10 years, Tom spent the majority of his time helping raise his two

grandkids.

He is survived by his beautiful wife of 52 years, Karen Exely Ender, his girls, Jessica Ender, Laura Lamb (his favorite son-in-law, Michael), Sara Ender, and Tricia Ender, his wonderful grandchildren, Layla and Thomas Lamb, as well as his beloved sister Sue Gentner (Albert), his brother, Bob Ender (Cheryl) and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, family, and friends. He loved to share a bag of popcorn with his grandpup, Ollie.

Visitation will be on Monday, February 2, 2026, from 2-8pm at Owen Funeral Home, 5317 Dixie Hwy. The Celebration of Life will be held February 3, 2026, at noon, also at Owen Funeral Home with burial to follow at St. Michael Cemetery.

Expressions of Sympathy should be made to the Home of the Innocents.

Cemetery Details

St. Michael Cemetery

1155 Charles St
Louisville, KY 40204

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 2. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (est)

Owen Funeral Homes - Dixie Highway
5317 Dixie Highway
Louisville, KY 40216
(502) 447-2600
<https://owenfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

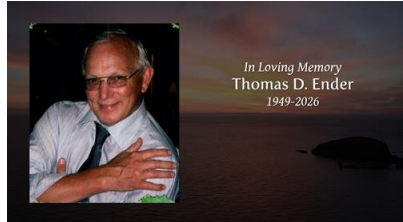
FEB 3. 12:00 PM (est)

Owen Funeral Homes - Dixie Highway
5317 Dixie Highway
Louisville, KY 40216
(502) 447-2600
<https://owenfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ Owen Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas Dawson Ender



Owen Funeral Homes - February 09 at 03:47 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Thomas Dawson Ender.



February 02 at 10:36 AM



“ Love, Shanda Forish planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Dawson Ender.

Love, Shanda Forish - February 02 at 10:36 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Dawson Ender.



February 01 at 09:23 PM

AW

“ Alexandria W. purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Thomas Dawson Ender.



Alexandria W. - February 01 at 12:39 PM

RF

“ Renee Tapp, Nick Tapp, Lydia Moel, & fam purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Thomas Dawson Ender.



Renee Tapp, Nick Tapp, Lydia Moel, & fam - January 31 at 10:29 AM

MB

“ Misty B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Dawson Ender.

Misty B. - January 31 at 01:45 AM

KW

“ Krissie White purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Thomas Dawson Ender.



Krissie White - January 30 at 08:53 PM

KW

“ Krissie White planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Dawson Ender.

Krissie White - January 30 at 08:53 PM

KF

“ KRW friends purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Thomas Dawson Ender.



KRW friends - January 30 at 08:33 PM

KF

“ KRW friends planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Dawson Ender.

KRW friends - January 30 at 08:33 PM

AB

“ Tom was a co worker, briefly boss, and mostly one of my best friends. In 45 years I only saw Tom get angry one time. I think what I'll miss most is our good natured give and take and boy could Tom give. I'll hold memories of Tom close.

Alan Biederman - January 30 at 07:55 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas Dawson Ender.



January 30 at 06:55 PM



“ Monica Bohn, Mike Mercer & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Dawson Ender.

Monica Bohn, Mike Mercer & Family - January 30 at 06:55 PM



“ Tom was one the most giving person I've ever known. He would always helping people no matter what. His smile was always on display! I had the pleasure of being his brother from another mother for over 50 years! We played together, we worked together, we laughed together and we cried together! He was gentle soul who always made time for anyone! Karen and the girls were truly blessed to have had him in their lives!

Joseph W Exely - January 30 at 04:57 PM



Oh my goodness.. what a shock to see this. Prayers and comfort to Karen and the girls. Valerie Fautz 🌻🙏🌻

Valerie Fautz Fautz - January 30 at 07:06 PM

LB

I am so sad to read this. Tom and I worked together at Dept. of Juvenile Justice. He was committed to helping our kids and was a great supervisor. Such an overall good person. He will be missed. My heart goes out to his family. Lisa Butler

Lisa Butler - January 30 at 10:57 PM

DM

RIP Tom. We are so sorry to hear this, Prayers and love to Karen and Family. Dennise & Eddie Misner

Dennise Misner - February 02 at 02:15 PM

HJ

So sad to hear of Tom's passing. I was a BD grad 4 years behind Tom. We worked together in Juvenile Court as Probation Officers in the mid 1970's. I looked up to him so much as a mentor. Tom had a genuine compassion for troubled kids. His calm demeanor and listening skills were unmatched.

Love to Karen and family.

Doug Dukes

Harold (Doug) Dukes Jr - February 02 at 10:54 PM