



## Tom Jordan

May 6, 1943 - April 24, 2020

Thomas Roy Jordan was born May 6, 1943 at Harris Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas to George Rankin Jordan, and Clara Lee (Wallis) Jordan of Mineral Wells, Texas. On April 24, 2020, after a valiant fight against a worldwide pandemic, he quietly left this world and ran into the overwhelming embrace of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

When “Tommy” was a baby the family moved to Breckenridge, Texas. There, he began a lifelong love of baseball as a little leaguer, developed a long passion for music in Mrs. Dean’s Breckenridge Boy Choir, grew his love for craft and Creation with the Cub Scouts, and started his faith journey at First Methodist Church. That journey lasted almost 77 years before he reached his final and forever destination. The life he lived is worth knowing and celebrating. He was a great storyteller and it’s an honor to share his story here.

In the sixth grade, Tommy’s family moved from Breckenridge to Brownwood, Texas. And it was in Brownwood where he would spend most of the rest of his life. He attended South Elementary and Brownwood Junior High. A monumental day occurred when in 6th grade Tommy met a 5th grade girl named Patti Clements at Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) at Central Methodist Church. Their lives as individuals would eventually become one life, together.

At Brownwood High School, Tom played tennis and blew the trumpet in the BHS Marching Band. He also lent his musical talent in the Jazz Band and an ensemble called The Flat Tops. He sang in Miss Mac’s legendary choirs and served as president of both the band and the choir. He and Patti started “going steady” when he was a junior and she was a sophomore and they both began singing in the Chancel Choir at Central Methodist. Lucky for the rest of us, they never stopped singing together.

Tommy graduated with the Brownwood High class of 1961 and many of his classmates remained lifelong friends who he cherished dearly. Soon after graduation he moved to Austin and began his college experience at The University of Texas at Austin. Patti would

do the same the following year. While attending classes, Tom worked for the State Comptroller's office in the basement of the Capitol. He volunteered as a coach for a little league team. He was a student at UT for the 1963 National Championship football season. This set a high bar for the Longhorns for him that they almost never met again. He loved cheering on Texas, even if it was never quite the same.

After a couple of years at The University, his West Texas roots began calling and he transferred to McMurry University in Abilene. The smaller school was just what Tom needed and he flourished - graduating with a BA in Communications and Spanish. He was quite the man on campus too, becoming Sports Editor for the campus newspaper, a delegate to the Model United Nations in St. Louis, and in his Senior year, Class Favorite and Student Body President. He would later serve as president of the McMurry Alumni Association.

At McMurry, he picked up a guitar and began chasing another of his life's loves; folk music. With friends Lynn Taylor and Joe Stroop, The Old Town Singers picked and sang for audiences big and small. Songs by The Kingston Trio, Peter, Paul and Mary, The Chad Mitchell Trio, Ian and Sylvia and countless others were part of their repertoire. Songs by such artists would become standards in the future Jordan household and shall remain so until the end of time.

Tom and Patti dated long distance until both had finished college and, as they fell deeper in love, it became clear they were destined to spend their lives together. Tom asked Poochie and Janie Clements for their daughter's hand in marriage and in no time they were engaged. They were married June 10, 1967 at Central Methodist Church in Brownwood, steps away from where they'd first met. In Abilene, he went to work in the Management Training program for Sears. In the summer of 1969, Janey was born and Tom joyously became "Dad" and he was a natural at being a good and loving father from the get-go.

By the time Julie was born in 1971, Tom and Patti were back in Brownwood where he worked for his father-in-law as manager of Gibson's Discount Center on the traffic circle. He was President of the Brownwood High School Alumni Association, a member of the Jaycees, and the Brownwood Rotary Club and served on the Brownwood School Board, the Child Welfare Board, and the Advisory Board of the State School. Such service earned him recognition from the esteemed Brownwood Mafia. Working hard for yourself and in the service of others are traits he passed along to his family and we're proud to carry it forward. Tom and Patti went back to Central Methodist with their young family as active members of the congregation and choir. When Brian was born in 1976, Tom brought a tiny

baseball glove to the hospital for him, even though those cherished games of catch were still a few years away.

The passion for music, faith, family, and hard work were learned and shared on the banks of the Pecan Bayou where Tom and Patti built a house from plans they ordered from Southern Living magazine. It was a homestead full of unconditional love, life lessons, good music, and even better food thanks to the massive gardens he planted. Goats, guineas, chickens, dogs, cats, and a horse named “Freckles” were regular parts of the family’s day. The dogs chased rabbits on the bayou, the chickens roosted on the horse’s back, the goats pulled kids in a red wagon. The house flooded multiple times and would be built back each time with surer foundations and prayers. There were bonfires after Lions football games, cookouts and Easter egg hunts with Sunday School classes, scavenger hunts, go-cart races, treehouses, fish to catch and the legendary Christmas sing-a-longs. There was never a dull moment. Ever. And there was never a visitor or friend who didn’t feel like they belonged there.

The store on the circle became a point of personal pride and ownership as a sign for “Jordan’s Home and Garden” was hung. Here he cared for his employees and customers on a personal level that is rarely seen in business. He always took time for others, to share a positive word with someone who was struggling, to help someone to their car with their items, and to tell someone exactly how to plant their garden. Making it in retail may have been a challenge, but for Tom, making someone’s day better never was.

Tom was passionate about his next career working with children, adolescents, and adults through S.O.I. and Bridges Learning. He worked as a teacher at New Horizons Ranch in Goldthwaite where he cared for children in ways that reached far beyond academics. Throughout his life, he also found a home at church. At Central Methodist, he sang in the choir and faithfully shepherded his family through the early years. Later, at First United Methodist Church, he taught Sunday school, directed the youth choir, served on countless committees and volunteer groups, sang in the sanctuary choir and throughout the state of Texas with The Jordan River Jubilee, a cherished group of musical friends.

When Alex was born, “Dad” became “Pop”. If he was good at being a dad, he was phenomenal at being a grandfather. Before all was said and done, he would assume the name “Pop” for nine grandchildren. They adored their “Pop” and he more than returned every bit of that love. After they both retired, Tom and Patti moved to Round Rock to be closer to Brian and Julie’s families and they loved their life there together. But of course, Brownwood will always feel like home.

He is survived by: Patti, his loving wife of almost 53 years. It's hard to imagine a couple more devoted to one another. Tom is also survived by his children and their spouses; daughter, Janey Jordan Smith and husband Bruce, daughter Julie Jordan Langley and husband Anthony, and Brian Clements Jordan and his wife Claire. His grandchildren Alex, Whitney, Carter, Cameron, Lilly, Nihl Thomas, Rankin, Bennett Roy and Wallis. His sisters, Suzanne Jordan Greer, and Jana Jordan Gentry and husband Steve. And his nephews, Tony Gilbrech and wife Carol and David Gilbrech and wife Jill. Sister-in-law Peg Pasquini and husband Steve, brother-in-law Ed Clements and wife Betsy, and brother-in-law John Clements. There are too many cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends to count, but each was precious to him and is to us. He was preceded in death by his parents, mother and father-in-law, and brother-in-law, Buddy Clements.

The good that Tom Jordan put in the world through his personal touch on the lives of his family, friends, employees, and students is too big to grasp. It will last for centuries as his lessons are not the kind that fade away easily and are too important not to pass along. Having witnessed his kindness, humor, grit, and faith right up until the end - we are certain that the world is a better place having had him in it.

Patti recently found something she'd written long ago. "Tom and I live on the east side of life's mountain, the side where the sun rises, not the side where it sets. It's the side to see the new day that is coming. Not the side to see the day that is gone. The best day is the day that is coming – with work to do, with eyes wide open and with the heart grateful." They raised their children and grandchildren in the sunrise. They sang and worshiped there with friends and family. And they laughed and cried there, too. And despite the separation we now face from this man we loved dearly, we know that our best days together are still to come, in the sunrise and eternally so.

The family will have a private, small graveside service at Greenleaf Cemetery in Brownwood. Brian will play his dad's guitar and they will sing "Amazing Grace" and listen to the Gatlin Brothers' "Alleluia." They'll read from Holy Bible and ponder their eventual heavenly reunion. And someday, when life gets back to normal, we will celebrate his life in grand fashion with friends and family.

In lieu of flowers, please honor Tom's love for music by donating in his name to Kids In A New Groove in Austin ([kidsinanewgroove.org](http://kidsinanewgroove.org)). They provide instruments, and one-on-one lessons and mentorships for children in foster care. Or honor his love of baseball and give in his name to the Brownwood Freshman League ([www.brownwoodbaseball.com](http://www.brownwoodbaseball.com)) and tell those kids to swing hard, run fast, and love every minute of it.

# Comments

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“ I am so blessed to have many memories of the joyous years I spent with Pop. Playing the violin for him, watching him start a new project, hugging him. He was always there for me. I will never forget these thirteen years I've known him. I love you Pop!



**Lillian Smith** - May 06, 2020 at 07:20 PM



“ Lilly, How precious for you to write here for Pop! I'm so happy we had such wonderful days together with you in March! It was just perfect and a special time we will never forget!

**Gigi** - May 08, 2020 at 11:47 AM

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“ Tom Jordan was a great guy who will be missed tremendously. I send condolences to his sweet family. Patti, my heart goes out to all of you and I share your grief. I send love and hugs and wish I could do more.

Mary Scott Nabers

**Mary Scott Nabers** - May 03, 2020 at 08:29 PM



“ Thank you, Mary! You know where I am in this journey of loss!

**patti** - May 08, 2020 at 11:48 AM

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“ Heartfelt condolences to the family. I have enjoyed the Jordan River Jubilee and choir for many years.

**Mary Hunter** - April 29, 2020 at 07:09 PM



“ Thank you Mary! Those were such special years for us!

**patti** - May 08, 2020 at 11:49 AM



“ Lots of love to all of you. I share some photos from my first time in Texas. Tom, Freckles and me. Jordan family eating Swedish dinner. I'm so sorry for your loss.  
Lena



**Lena Gustafsson** - April 29, 2020 at 01:46 AM



“ Oh Lena, I love love these pictures. Thanks so much for sharing these with us. lovalu xoxo

**Janey** - April 29, 2020 at 02:01 PM



“ Lena! You are in our hearts too!

**patti** - May 08, 2020 at 11:49 AM



“ Dear Patti, I am so sorry for your loss, just recently losing my husband too, I would like to be of of some help to you. Please call me for any support you might need. We met by chance at the treatment center & reconnected after so many years. My prayers are with you & your family. Blessing, Olivia Farias

**olivia** - April 28, 2020 at 06:52 PM



“ Olivia, I have intended to call you so many times since Rick died! Yes, we need to get together ! Thank you!

**patti** - April 29, 2020 at 11:49 PM

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“ I can't remember a time of not knowing and loving the Clements family. I do remember the time, however, when I first laid eyes on Tommy Jordan. It was when he and his college buds were singing "Tom Dooley" and other "radical" songs of the 60s, somewhere on the Howard Payne Campus. I, of course, was MUCH younger, and carried a crush on those darling young men for years! And here, many, many years later, who could have predicted that my love and admiration for the Jordans would still be so strong? Perhaps it's because my daughter, Noelle, and Brian became great friends at Glen Lake Methodist Camp years ago; or that Brian is married to my niece, Claire, or that when I'd hire Brian and musical buddies to sing when i had book signings or other events in Austin, and Tommy and Patti would show up to make sure the sound system was set up properly, or when we'd watched our grandchildren (who are cousins) play T-ball and gather for other celebrations, and that I'd get to know Julie and Janey and their precious families...the list goes on and on. My love, sympathy and support to all you Jordan people. We are all blessed to have known Tommy; and i am blessed to know all.of you.

Here's to Tom Dooley and to Tom Jordan!

xxoo Mary Gordon  
mg@askmarygordon.com

**MG Spence** - April 28, 2020 at 05:55 PM



“ Thank you Mary Gordon. Your words area always so perfect. We love you!!!! - janey  
**Janey** - April 29, 2020 at 02:33 PM



“ Thank you Mary G! I will keep your special words in my heart!  
**patti** - May 08, 2020 at 11:51 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Tom Jordan.



April 28, 2020 at 03:23 PM



“ Our most sincere sympathy to Patti and her children with the passing of Tom. We held great respect for him and he was truly a kind and friendly man. God's peace be with each of you. Dale and Sally Simpson, Brownwood, Texas.

**Sally Simpson** - April 28, 2020 at 02:13 PM

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“ I will never forget Tom and Patti. In my years as a member of the Gibson's gang we made memories that i still laugh about today. At my mothers visitation 9 years ago this month, Tom came up to me and shared what he called one of his favorite Gibsons stories. He was outside the store and came back in and told my mom he saw some little kid riding his skateboard around the traffic circle. Mom said what a little idiot, and then she looked up to see me walking through the front door with my skateboard in my hands. Of course thats the short version of that story. We both laughed so loud that everybody turned around. I never thought i would be able to laugh standing next to my mothers casket, but Tom gave me that small gift. I can imagine mom, Buddy, Janie, Poochie and Tom sitting around telling Gibsons stories right now. I will miss you Tom. I love you Patti, always have and always will.  
Travis Egger

**Travis Egger** - April 27, 2020 at 09:33 PM



“ Thank you Travis! The Jordans love the Eggers too!!!

**patti** - April 29, 2020 at 11:52 PM

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“ Joshua little

**joshua little** - April 27, 2020 at 08:42 PM



“ Thank you Josh and Sharon! How special do you to remember Tom!

**patti** - April 29, 2020 at 11:53 PM

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“ Sharon baker

**sharon baker** - April 27, 2020 at 08:41 PM

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“ Barbara Shields lit a candle in memory of Tom Jordan



Barbara Shields - April 27, 2020 at 11:59 AM

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“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



patti - April 26, 2020 at 11:13 PM

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“ The first time I met Tom and Patti, this was the kit they gave me: Brownwood Lions. What an amazing and warm couple. And really something you can tell your friends: I have an oncle in Texas! All the best Jordans, stick tight! Matthijs



matthijs creutzberg - April 26, 2020 at 05:34 PM



“ I showed this wonderful memory to mother, Matthijs. Thank you so much for sharing. -  
janey

Janey - April 26, 2020 at 10:23 PM



“ Matthias, I just love seeing your post! Thank you for remembering that fun Tim when we visited in your home in the Netherlands!

patti - April 26, 2020 at 11:11 PM

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“ Patti (and kids and grandkids), I am so glad that I knew Tom growing up in Brownwood. At various intervals in his and her lives we crossed paths, usually regarding something musical. My first memory of Tom was seeing him play the cornet in a small combo in the basement of First Presbyterian, probably for some youth gathering, Patti of course I remember from working on the annual staff with her in junior high/high school. Looking through the loving obituary in the paper I can see that they filled their life together not only making music and raising a family, but also helping so many others.

The last time I saw Tom was at the gala celebrating the opening of the Lyric Theater. I couldn't get him to sit in with the band, but the two of them did an outstanding job of working toward the establishment of a beautiful and unique performing venue. That, along with their family, is a lasting legacy that should be celebrated.

Being in the business that I am in, I recognize a class act when I see one.

Peace to you all,

James Davis

James Davis - April 26, 2020 at 04:10 PM



“ James, How wonderful to hear from you! Tom loved our “over the years” relationship and always wanted to dance to your band again!

patti - April 26, 2020 at 10:46 PM



“ Enjoyed the BHS band years with Tom. (Dale T.)

W Dale Tervooren - April 27, 2020 at 12:40 AM



“ During the early '50's I can recall with fondness~ hearing Tommy singing at Central Methodist Church. I was only in elementary school, but I knew Tommy had a special quality that made him very special. ~ Remember his handsome red hair ( and I was a little partial to red hair)~. What a gift from God this fine man has been all his time on earth! He will be missed but oh.... how joyous the angels in heaven must be~ to have his gorgeous voice joining the heavenly choirs!!!  
from Barbara Barcus

Barbara Barcus - April 26, 2020 at 02:19 PM



“ I remember the 1st time I met Tom and how I knew he was an extraordinary man who had a heart full of gold. I am Julie and Anthony’s next door neighbor. When they moved in 5 years ago, Tom and Patti came by and helped. I went by to introduce myself and before I even met Julie or Anthony I met Tom and Patti. When I was talking to both of them and being the first time meeting them we were talking like we were long time friends. Tom had a Star constellation app on his phone he was showing me, and we spoke for a while about it. He was so friendly with literally someone he just met, and even let me take his phone and look through the app as well. I remember how nice he was and also how cool/cute that he was so excited and enthusiastic. I knew then that this Tom had to be an amazing man, and it has been solidified by reading all he did in his life and reading people’s other personal stories about him. Since then I had been fortunate to meet Tom a couple more times as my wife and I became closer with Julie and her family. It’s been an honor to have met a great man. Kiley and I are sending our heartfelt condolences and we are continuing to pray for the Jordan family.

**Tim Servati** - April 26, 2020 at 01:46 PM

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“ It has been my pleasure to have had a chance to know both of you and my love and prayers go out to you.  
Betty Bucy Nelson

**Betty Nelson** - April 26, 2020 at 12:04 PM



“ I miss singing with you in choir, Betty Jo!!

**patti** - April 26, 2020 at 10:50 PM

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“ So many fond memories of all the Jordans at Central UMC and especially the choir. I will never forget my first solo part when I was about 15. Tommy and my sister Betty had the baritone and soprano lines. Singing with Betty, ho hum, but having a part with Tommy was big time! My line:  
“The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never.  
I nothing lack if I am his,  
and he is mine forever.”  
These words and every verse of this song, so fitting right now. Love to all the Jordan and Clements family. Ann Swanson

Ann Swanson - April 26, 2020 at 11:38 AM



“ Thank you for sharing this memory...and the song which I love.  
Janey - May 04, 2020 at 12:51 PM



“ 14 files added to the album Memories with Dad



Janey Jordan Smith - April 26, 2020 at 01:33 AM



“ All of Tom & Patty's friends in Brownwood will sorely miss him. Blessings on your family.  
Emily Crawford - April 26, 2020 at 11:18 AM



“ We hear much about "class acts." Most aren't really, Tom really was! A wonderful Christian friend!  
Don Newbury - April 26, 2020 at 02:36 PM



“ Remembering our young couple days with living in our new homes on 16th Street, Brownwood, Texas: have our babies to our families, Street ice cream suppers, renting a bus to take adults to the Fangdagle, growing children in school activities, fish fries, fun, lifetime friendship & so much more. Our deepest sympathies to Pattie & children  
c r thomas - April 26, 2020 at 04:59 PM



“ Thank you for the reminder of Tom helping to rent the bus so we could take our neighborhood friends to the Fandangle!  
patti - April 27, 2020 at 01:55 AM



“ It’s an honor to be mentioned by name in this remarkable obituary for one of the finest men I’ve ever known. When Tom, Lynn Taylor and I met at McMurry College in 1974 to create a folk music group, The Old Town Singers, it was the spark for more than 50 years of solid, loving friendship that never wavered. In all those years, every time I saw Tom, he gave me a big smile, a firm handshake, and a sincere welcome. He had a gift for making us feel special and appreciated. I will really miss him. I close by wishing nothing but love and joy for Patti, Janey, Julie, Brian and all the Jordan friends and family.

**Joe Stroop** - April 26, 2020 at 12:24 AM

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“ I worked for Tom Jordan at Gibson's Discount Center and always loved working for him. He was a man of great integrity, and I so appreciated his interest in my life and encouraging me along since I was a very young adult. I even got to do some music with he and his family. I still remember those times often. So I know he is singing joyously in heaven now and God is saying "Well Done" to such a fine man. Prayers of peace and comfort to his family at this difficult time.

**Gayla May** - April 25, 2020 at 11:33 PM



“ Gayla,  
Thank you for the sweet memory!  
We loved our Gibson years!  
**patti** - May 08, 2020 at 12:15 PM

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“ My favorite memory was when he was our Youth Choir director! We were awesome! I can remember that he arranged for us to perform other places! He knew that we were good!

**Mandy Findley Hunter** - April 25, 2020 at 11:21 PM



“ Many prayers to all of the Jordan’s! Love y’all  
**Mandy Findley Hunter** - April 25, 2020 at 11:23 PM

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“ Patty and Family, I was so sorry to hear of Tom’s passing. He was such a sweet person. My heart goes out to you and the Family. Love Sandra a Evans Alexander, Haydan and Branon

**Sandra Alexander** - April 25, 2020 at 10:40 PM

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“ Bill, Dora, Will, and Jennifer(Canales) Stewart would like to extend our heart felt wishes to all the family. It seemed just like yesterday that we would be on the Williams Ranch Road driving by your beautiful place to see that so much love and happiness was expressed there by all the animals that you all cared for, and the beauty of Nature that only sunrises can give you on the East side of the road. Tom will truly be missed, but we know he is in a peaceful place where the sunrise will continue to shine for him.

**DORA STEWART** - April 25, 2020 at 09:24 PM



“ Oh thank you Dora! Those were the days ! Blessings to your family!

**patti** - May 08, 2020 at 12:18 PM

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“ Patti and family, that is the most beautiful tribute I have ever read. It is so perfectly Tom. My heart remembers a wonderful man with a servant’s heart. We will be thinking of the family and I pray those memories continue to bless you.

**Lisa and Cookie Jaso** - April 25, 2020 at 05:44 PM



“ Tom always had a smile and was a shining light in the First United Methodist choir here in Brownwood. He has added much to the appreciation of music over the years and will always be remembered for his willingness to share it with others. Frank and Martha Hilton

**Frank and Martha Hilton** - April 26, 2020 at 11:02 AM