



## Richard Thomas "Tommy" Slusser

May 20, 1930 - December 30, 2022

Born on May 20, 1930, to Bryon and Lillian Slusser, Tommy Slusser grew up on a farm near Slusser's Chapel, in Montgomery County, Virginia. During World War II, while Bryon worked in an ammunition factory, Tommy helped to run the family farm. In the Fall of 1946, the family moved to St. Petersburg, Florida seeking a warm, humid climate because Byron had asthma. Tommy enrolled in St. Petersburg High School where he played in the orchestra and graduated in 1948. While at St. Pete High, Tommy met Betty Juanita Garrett whose family had also relocated to St. Petersburg from a farm in Malone, Florida. On January 20, 1951, Tom and Betty were married. They lived in St. Petersburg, Florida. A daughter, Terri, was born in 1952 and a son, Glen, was born in 1957.

Tommy worked as a mechanic and served in the Florida National Guard. He eventually rose to the position of Service Manager at Adcock and Keelan Buick Companies. He was known for his knowledge of automobiles as well as his honesty.

Tommy was a member of Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, both the old campus on Fifth Avenue South and the current location on Fifth Avenue North. He served as a deacon, an usher, greeter and was one of the first people that visitors met on their arrival at the church. His smile and handshake could warm up a room. He was active on many committees and served God

faithfully there.

Tommy is survived by his wife of 71 years, Betty Slusser, a daughter Terri Slusser Sweat (Gary), and a son, Glen Thomas Slusser (Cathy), four grandchildren, Alison Sweat DeMarco (Dan), Jennifer Sweat Kelly(Aaron), Robert Thomas Slusser and Timothy Glen Slusser (Miranda), and three great grandchildren, Julia DeMarco, Daniel DeMarco and Jonah Slusser. He was predeceased by his sisters, Ann Siar and Louise MacKenzie, and his brother, Robert Slusser.

# Tribute Wall

ES

“ Tommy and Betty were always special to me. I live in East Tennessee at an assisted living following a stroke several years ago.

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**Evelyn Schrader** - January 08, 2023 at 02:35 PM

LR

“ Growing up @ Fifth Avenue Baptist in the 60's was such a blessing. Tommy Slusser was often the “first face” as visitors arrived in the foyer of that church. His smile, his infectious personality would light up a room. Betty, what a wonderful life God gave you two. Terri and I were only a year apart in age, and we shared so many fun times, both at church and at other functions. Glenn, I remember the fun times at Hubka's pool in downtown St. Pete. Even though it's been a lifetime since our paths have crossed, I think of each and every one of you so very often. He and Grady are up in heaven now, sharing their “deacon” stories.

*Larry Ray, San Francisco CA*

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**larry Ray** - January 07, 2023 at 04:43 PM

CS

“ *Uncle Tom was a wonderful gift to me by my marriage to his nephew David Siar. He was so kind and intelligent. We often discussed issues of this world with love and his great humor. He will be missed by all. I understand the universe needed a good soul for balance, but I will miss him greatly. Our condolences to Betty and the family.*



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**Claudette Siar** - January 02, 2023 at 12:48 PM

BC

“ *Tommy Slusser was one of the most wonderful people I ever met. When you walked up to Tommy at church or any setting he instantly made you feel important. His infectious smile and hand shakes will never be forgotten. I am thankful I was able to know Tommy!!!!*

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**Bob Crowley** - January 01, 2023 at 11:39 AM