



## Thomas Carl Benson

September 19, 1949 - August 28, 2021

Thomas Carl Benson, age 71, died Saturday, August 28, 2021 at Grand Strand Regional Medical Center.

Born in Conway, SC, Thomas was a son of the late Thomas Luther and Ella Earle Busbee Benson. Tommy lived in Ft Lauderdale for 43 years and had recently returned to South Carolina to make his home in Murrells Inlet. He had always had a love of the low country nature in which he was raised hunting and fishing with his grandfather Carl Busbee at Caledonia. In his later years his passion for photography emerged capturing the beauty of the birds at Huntington Beach State Park and the Everglades. He had such patience waiting for the perfect moment when a mother egret was feeding her babies or a great blue who caught a fish bigger than he was or the impressive display of plumage from the spoonbills. He was always eager to learn more about the birds and the abilities of his camera to capture their story. With all these magnificent pictures he felt such joy in sharing them with all his friends on Facebook. We waited every day with anticipation to see what his next post would bring. Tommy had a deep love for people and was always willing to share what he was learning about his camera and the birds in hopes of encouraging others to share his passion.

Photography was not his only talent. He loved wood work and made beautiful frames for the pictures he took. He also created unique and exquisite furniture for his home and others. But his greatest talent was his love and care for

people. He was forever kind, generous and encouraging to everyone. He made you feel good. He found great joy in other peoples' success. He will be greatly missed. In addition to his parents, Thomas is preceded in death by his grandparents, Dr. Carl Leon and Decie Irene Busbee and Martin Luther and Carrie Sue Benson.

Survivors include his daughter Laura Lynn Benson (Ritchie) Williams; grandchildren Luke Carlyle Williams, Lawton Avery Williams, Grayson Lynn Williams; sister Frances Benson Lambe; brother William Richard (Timna) Benson; nephews Ronald Scott (Jennie) Lambe, Thomas Martin Benson; and niece Kathleen Earle Benson.

Memorial contributions may be made to Waccamaw Audubon Society PO Box 51591 Myrtle Beach, SC 29579 or Huntington Beach State Park by sending a check to The South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism, c/o Beautiful Places Alliance, 1205 Pendleton Street, Columbia, SC 29201.

A Graveside service will be held at 10:30 AM, Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at Lakeside Cemetery. The family will receive friends 30 minutes prior to the service.

An online guestbook is available at [www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com](http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com)

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel is handling the arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 7. 10:00 AM (ET)

Lakeside Cemetery  
401 Lakewood Drive  
Conway, SC 29526

## Graveside Service

SEP 7. 10:30 AM (ET)

Lakeside Cemetery  
401 Lakewood Drive  
Conway, SC 29526

# Tribute Wall

LR

“ *My sincere condolences for Tommy's family. I had the pleasure of going to Conway High School with Tommy and later worked with him for a while at PYA Monarch before he moved to Florida. Tommy was a extremely nice individual and his charisma delighted everyone that was around him. I always thought a lot of Tommy. I have not seen him since he moved to Florida but I never forgot about Tommy and his ability to uplift those around him. Rest in peace Tommy.*  
*Leo Rabon*

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**Leo D Rabon** - September 08, 2021 at 10:12 AM

MD

“ *Mark and I are very sorry for your loss. May your memories bring you comfort. We enjoyed talking to Tom. He always had a smile and a wave. He will be missed.*

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**Mark and Lynnda Dominovich** - September 06, 2021 at 09:11 PM

MP

“ *Maria Pankin lit a candle in memory of Thomas Carl Benson*



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**Maria Pankin** - September 03, 2021 at 11:56 AM

CA

“ *I never met TB in person but have enjoyed his photography for quite some time. The beauty of birds and nature reflected the nature of his heart. Condolences to family and friends!*

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**Catherine** - September 02, 2021 at 04:56 PM

SZ

“ *I'm loving memory of Thomas Carl Benson.  
You are all in our thoughts & prayers.*



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**Stacey & Mark Zaba** - September 01, 2021 at 12:59 PM

SJ

“ *Susan And Don Johanson lit a candle in  
memory of Thomas Carl Benson*



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**Susan and Don Johanson** - August 31, 2021 at 05:56 PM

LI

“ *My condolences to the family and friends of Thomas Benson. I  
know this is a difficult time and I pray God continues to comfort and  
strengthen the family during htis time of bereavement. May the  
many cherished and loving memories of Thomas continue to  
comfort his family and friends. May you have calming and pleasant  
thoughts during this time.*

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**Lisa** - August 31, 2021 at 01:20 PM



“ *Tommy my wife& I saw you Friday we miss seeing all the sunrises  
together The lord is showing You the perfect sunrise nowMiss you  
JJ&Diane!*

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**Jimmy Johnson** - August 31, 2021 at 12:48 PM

SK

“ Tommy, you have been in our lives for a very long time. You and Shawn have shared many experiences. We both loved you and all of your family. You will be greatly missed. Our condolences to all the family.  
Shawn and Rhonda Kwaak



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**Shawn and Rhonda Kwaak** - August 30, 2021 at 07:34 PM

TH

“ As a flounder fisherman in the estuaries of Murrells Inlet my wife and I often wondered who that man was slowly passing by us in a small john boat very early of a morning. We saw him go by many many times heading out and south toward Huntington Park. We never saw any signs of fishing gear or crab traps or rod holders or anything relating to fishing. After about a year of seeing him pass us and heading down the creek I just couldn't stand it any longer. As the stranger got closer to our boast early one morning I had to ask, "What are you doing out here? I see no fishing rods or anything. You just riding around?" The stranger smiled and leaned over to retrieve something from the bottom of his john boat. At first I thought it was a bazooka he held up to show us but instead it was a camera and lens that must have been three feet long. I guess we looked bewildered because he looked amused. Then he politely asked if he could take our picture. Yes you can..... and that was the start of our friendship. Many framed pictures later and many conversations on the water and on land followed. What a great talented guy he was. Tommy said that he was a marine carpenter and photography was just a hobby. Wow. How modest can you get! We were wondering where Tommy had been when we were fishing last week in the creeks. We hadn't seen him. But at least now we know. He's gone where all good people go. We will miss you.

*Tommy and liz*

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**TOMMY AND LIZ HAMRICK** - August 30, 2021 at 05:16 PM

RA

“ *Rich & Pat Antinozzi lit a candle in memory of Thomas Carl Benson*



Rich & Pat Antinozzi - August 30, 2021 at 04:30 PM

LW

“ *Sending my condolences to Tommy's family for their loss. It's a loss to all of us who enjoyed talking to him at the park and taking pictures with him. I will miss seeing him on the causeway and seeing the beautiful photos he would capture. He was funny too. Gone too soon. Hope you see all the birds you want to in heaven Tommy!*

Lynn Wheeler - August 30, 2021 at 03:47 PM

NE

“ *Nelin lit a candle in memory of Thomas Carl Benson*



nelin - August 30, 2021 at 03:27 PM

NE

*You will always be remembered* ❤️

nelin - August 30, 2021 at 03:28 PM

SC

*I'm not sure Tommy realized just how many lives he touched with his photographic artistry and his enthusiasm for sharing his knowledge and passion for the beautiful world we live in. I looked forward to seeing his daily posts of bird pictures and to my occasional visits to HBSP to photograph the wildlife there. He was always more than happy to share anything that could be helpful. Tommy was a kind and generous man and he will be missed by many, many people. My sincere condolences to his family. I pray that you will take comfort in knowing that his was a life lived as an exemplary model of that we can all aspire to.*

*Stokes Clarke, Hidden Valley, PA*

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**Stokes Clarke** - August 30, 2021 at 04:07 PM

JN

“ *My sincere condolences to Tom's family, I met him about 4 years ago at Hunting Beach State park (Where else) where I was taking bird pics of course. Every time I have been there I have seen and talked to Thomas and he was always funny, loved nature, especially spoonbills. He will be sorely missed by the photographic community, it won't be the same their without him. God Bless - Jeff Neville*



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**Jeffrey Neville** - August 30, 2021 at 02:33 PM

BJ

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**Bill Jones** - August 30, 2021 at 02:24 PM

BJ

*Love you and miss you Tommy*

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**Bill Jones** - August 30, 2021 at 02:36 PM

GD

“ *Louise and I are gonna miss you my friend!*



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**George DeCamp** - August 30, 2021 at 01:30 PM

VR

“ *We chatted with Timmy numerous times when we visited Huntington Beach.... I have to admit I didn't know his name until I saw the posts about his death. We loved talking to him and getting all the bird gossip from the park - always a super nice guy and always very helpful to us rookies. We will miss seeing him ... may God give peace and comfort to his family and friends ❤️*

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**Vicki Reeves** - August 30, 2021 at 01:20 PM

FH

“ *I was so very sorry to hear of the loss of Tommy. Such a wonderful guy and was enjoying his new adventures back in Murrells Inlet and the Low Country. You will be missed by so many people and friends but especially Laura, Frances and Billy. Please accept my deepest sorrow and I will continue prayer for everyone.*

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**Faye Ricks Hickson** - August 30, 2021 at 12:33 PM