



Edward "Ed" A. Townsend

March 9, 1942 - January 2, 2026

Edward "Ed" A. Townsend, age 83, passed away on January 2, 2026, in Norman, Oklahoma. A devoted husband, father, grandfather, and respected member of the Grove community, Ed was a distinguished businessman and a man of steadfast faith whose life was marked by generosity, perseverance, leadership, and service.

Born on March 9, 1942, in Brazil, Ed immigrated to Texas at the age of 12. Confronted with the challenges of adapting to a new country and language, he met each obstacle with determination—a spirit that would define his personal and professional journey.

Ed pursued higher education at the University of Texas with remarkable dedication. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Economics in 1964, followed by a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance in 1965. He went on to complete a Master of Business Administration in Finance in 1967. These academic accomplishments laid the groundwork for an influential career in banking and finance.

His professional ascent began at First National Bank in Dallas in 1970. By 1984 he had risen to the role of vice chairman and CFO. Simultaneously, Ed held leadership roles at Houston Citizens Bank—serving from 1979 to 1984.

On May 25, 1985, Ed married the love of his life, Barbara Newman, in Dallas, Texas. The couple made their home in Oklahoma. Together they shared 40

wonderful years and many cherished memories.

In 1985, Ed brought his expertise to Oklahoma as chairman, president, and chief executive officer of Local Federal and Local American Bank. His influence extended beyond these institutions through his service on the board of directors for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka. Throughout his career, Edward was recognized for his strategic insight and unwavering commitment to ethical financial leadership.

In 2004, after selling his company with plans to retire to the lake, Ed quickly discovered that retirement didn't suit him. Just four days into his new chapter, and with encouragement from his wife Barbara, he began seeking a new venture—one that would allow him to stay active and contribute meaningfully. That search led to the founding of the Bank of Grove in 2005. Under Ed's leadership and vision, the bank grew and evolved into the Bank of Grand Lake. Over the past two decades, Ed built thousands of relationships within the Grand Lake community through his work in banking and beyond. His presence became a cornerstone of local development and philanthropy.

Ed and Barbara shared not only a life together but also a passion for service. They were instrumental in supporting the Delaware County Children's Advocacy Network and co-founded The Townsend Foundation. Through this foundation, they provided critical medical care for disadvantaged children—a legacy that will continue to impact lives for years to come.

Ed's dedication to community extended into healthcare leadership as well; Encouraged by Dr. Norman Cotner, Ed worked tirelessly with Integris until they were persuaded to build the new hospital facility in Grove. He served as chairman for Integris Health and earned recognition as a valued businessman in Grove. His contributions left lasting impacts on local institutions and enriched the lives of those around him.

A man guided by deep faith throughout his life, Ed was a member of Lake Center Baptist Church. His belief in Christ shaped both his personal values and his approach to leadership and service.

Ed is survived by his wife, Barbara Townsend; his daughters and their children: Jennifer Townsend Earls of Austin, Texas, Leslie Townsend Collins of Glenpool, OK, Lara Townsend Gradt of Austin, TX, Hilary Townsend of Austin, Tx and Jan Elaine "Lainey" Townsend Sundaram of Norman, OK., grandchildren: Bradley, Laren, Kiersten, Avery, Haylie, Michael and Lakshmi.

Ed is also survived by his brother, Charles Townsend, resides in Phoenix, AZ and his sister, Margaret Townsend de Cordon, lives in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

Ed's twin brother and lifelong best friend, William Seiffert Townsend, preceded him in death in February of 2006.

Ed's legacy of generosity, mentorship, philanthropy and commitment to his family and his community will live on as a lasting testament of the great man he was.

Visitation will be from 5pm-7pm Friday, January 9, 2026, at Nichols-Stephens Funeral Service. Funeral services will be at 2pm Saturday, January 10, 2026, at Grove's First Baptist Church. Burial to follow at Olympus Cemetery North.

If you would like to honor Ed's life with a gift, his passion for children was most deeply expressed through his work and giving to the Delaware County Children's Special Advocacy Network (DCCSAN) at dccsan.org or to Second Chance Pet Rescue in Grove.

Cemetery Details

Olympus Cemetery North

Grove, OK 74344

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 9. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Nichols-Stephens Funeral and Cremation Service
10201 U.S. Highway 59
Grove, OK 74344
(918) 786-6761
nicholsfunerals@yahoo.com

Funeral Service

JAN 10. 2:00 PM (CT)

Grove's First Baptist Church
501 E 13th St
Grove, OK 74344-3439
(918) 786-4419

Tribute Wall

PP

“ Mr. Townsend was always nice and courteous to me when I would come into the bank. On more than one occasion, he would say, "Now, girls, you give this pastor whatever he wants." I never tried to see if I could get an interest free loan, but I appreciated his thoughtfulness. On one occasion, he called me into his office to tell me the bank couldn't give a loan to an individual I knew. But he told me when the person found the vehicle that he wanted, he would help out. And he did.

Our church will always be grateful to Mr. Townsend and the Bank of Grand Lake for their help and assistance when we went through some tough times financially as a church. He was a dear friend and fellow brother in the Lord. I will miss him when I go in the lobby of the bank. His warm smile and demeanor was always pleasant! To Barbara and the family our thoughts and prayers!

Pastor Jim Paslay - January 27 at 04:08 PM

MM

“ Such a caring man ! I will always remember the first day we met at the drycleaners in Grove. It was my pleasure to take care of him. Barbara so sorry for your loss. Mary Lou

Mary Lou Morrissey - January 14 at 09:57 PM

RF

“ Randal F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward "Ed" A. Townsend.

Randal F. - January 11 at 08:25 PM

TF

“ *The Chamblee family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Edward "Ed" A. Townsend.*



The Chamblee family - January 09 at 07:33 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Edward "Ed" A. Townsend.*



January 09 at 04:39 PM

RI

“ *RDK & Associates, Inc. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward "Ed" A. Townsend.*

RDK & Associates, Inc. - January 09 at 04:39 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Edward "Ed" A. Townsend.*



January 08 at 09:15 AM

BB

“ Ben and Ramie Barnes planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward "Ed" A. Townsend.

Ben and Ramie Barnes - January 08 at 09:15 AM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Edward "Ed" A. Townsend.



January 08 at 03:17 AM



“ Rose Garden Heart was purchased for the family of Edward "Ed" A. Townsend.



January 08 at 12:22 AM



“ Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Edward "Ed" A. Townsend.



January 07 at 08:22 PM

MR

“ Morgan, LeeAnn, Bill, Jurni, & Ryeli purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Edward "Ed" A. Townsend.



Morgan, LeeAnn, Bill, Jurni, & Ryeli - January 07 at 05:46 PM

BB

“ Brewster & DeAngelis-Clark Brewster purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Edward "Ed" A. Townsend.



Brewster & DeAngelis-Clark Brewster - January 07 at 10:30 AM

BB

“ Brewster & DeAngelis-Clark Brewster planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward "Ed" A. Townsend.

Brewster & DeAngelis-Clark Brewster - January 07 at 10:30 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Edward "Ed" A. Townsend.



January 06 at 09:53 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Edward "Ed" A. Townsend.*



January 06 at 01:59 PM



“ *Barbara, I am so sorry for your loss. Because of Ed, I was able to move back closer to family. He was kind. You and your family are in my prayers. Lean on the Lord and find comfort.*

Elaine Wagner - January 05 at 05:46 PM



“ *Elaine Wagner lit a candle in memory of Edward "Ed" A. Townsend*



Elaine Wagner - January 05 at 05:43 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Edward "Ed" A. Townsend.*



January 05 at 04:10 PM

SH

“ Sending love and prayers—Debbe Hendrix planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward "Ed" A. Townsend.

Sending love and prayers—Debbe Hendrix - January 05 at 04:10 PM

CP

“ Chuck and Victoria Perry purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Edward "Ed" A. Townsend.



Chuck and Victoria Perry - January 05 at 11:25 AM

CP

“ Chuck and Victoria Perry planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward "Ed" A. Townsend.

Chuck and Victoria Perry - January 05 at 11:25 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Edward "Ed" A. Townsend.



January 05 at 09:52 AM

JC

“ I'm very sad to hear of Ed's passing. My dad, Dr. Cotner, and I both thought very highly of Ed. His contributions to Grove will continue to serve the community for many years to come. My condolences to the family.

Jeff Cotner - January 04 at 11:03 PM

RF

“ Dear Friend of mine, Has gone to Live GOD.(Good Buy)

Rodney Foster - January 04 at 05:19 PM

JO

“ Jennifer (Ellis) & Kevin O'Brian purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Edward "Ed" A. Townsend.



Jennifer (Ellis) & Kevin O'Brian - January 04 at 04:37 PM

TE

“ Terry and Carolyn Eskew purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Edward "Ed" A. Townsend.



Terry and Carolyn Eskew - January 04 at 04:10 PM

TE

“ Terry and Carolyn Eskew planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward "Ed" A. Townsend.

Terry and Carolyn Eskew - January 04 at 04:10 PM

DC

“ *Dr and Mrs Paul E. Callicoa*t purchased the *Divine Peace Bouquet* for the family of Edward "Ed" A. Townsend.



Dr and Mrs Paul E. Callicoat - January 04 at 03:58 PM

VM

“ *Vanessa (Stogsdill) McGuire* purchased the *Arrive in Style* for the family of Edward "Ed" A. Townsend.



Vanessa (Stogsdill) McGuire - January 04 at 03:18 PM