



Thomas "Tom" C Benton

July 30, 1950 - February 6, 2026

Thomas C. Benton, known affectionately as Tom, passed away on February 6, 2026, at the age of 75 in Sperry, Oklahoma. Born on July 30, 1950, in Joplin, Missouri, Tom grew into a man of diverse passions and pursuits, marked by his adventurous spirit, dedication and ingenuity.

Tom's early education was completed John Marshall high school in Oklahoma City, which set the stage for a diverse career.

In the 1970s, he founded Sunshine Electric in Oklahoma City and secured a significant contract with the state of Oklahoma to manage electrical systems for every rest stop and most park facilities across the state.

In the 1980s, Tom owned the boat dealership, Boats Etc., in Tulsa and operated a marina on Lake Keystone. followed by his studies at Chapman school seamanship Academy

His career path was eclectic and ambitious, from ground-floor testing of high-speed Mercury Engines to becoming a Maritime Damage Surveyor. His entrepreneurial spirit took him to Grand Lake where he started Towboat USA - Grand Lake.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Tom was deeply engaged in various hobbies that reflected his unique personality. He was a proud member of the National Rifle Association and the Republican Party. His leadership roles included serving as the 305th member, President, and Director of the Society of Accredited Marine Surveyors. He also was a member of the National Accredited Marine Surveyors and the Indian Owners Association. Tom's

adventurous spirit was evident in his involvement with the South Grand Lake Community, hang gliding, sailing, and motorcycle riding. His passion for motorcycles took him across the United States, including the famed Sturgis and Daytona motorcycle rally.

Tom's life was a testament to his daredevil spirit and his commitment to supporting others. He will be remembered for his adventurous pursuits and his contributions to his community. His legacy will live on in the hearts of those he touched and the institutions he helped build and sustain.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Marjorie (Rathmann) Benton, his wife, Pamela Benton and an infant son.

Left to cherish Tom's memory, son, Marty Benton (Summer) of Odessa, Texas, bonus son, Gurie Huckleby (Lacey) of Disney, OK, brother, James Benton (JoAnn) of Roundrock, Texas, bonus sister, Ludie Ericksten (Rob) of Disney, Ok, grandchildren, McKenzie McCarthy, Dakota Benton, Felicia Mariel, and several great grandchildren, nephews, Jimmy Benton and Jeffrey Benton.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Herman Hospice House in Sperry, OK.

A family memorial will be planned at a later date.