



Thomas Leron Blanks

July 31, 1941 - June 30, 2020

Having finished his course, a rich life full of faith, family and friends, reflecting the love of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Thomas Leron Blanks passed away peacefully on June 30, 2020. Leron—Papa to his grandchildren—was born in Dallas on July 31, 1941 to Mary Sue and Roy Blanks. He was a graduate of Sunset High School and North Texas State University.

But his story of life and love began long before that. At the age of 8, Leron met the love of his life, Nancy Ellen Peeler. After marrying on June 15, 1962, Leron and Nancy began their life together. Nancy's constant support and counsel helped Leron rise to the top of the printing industry in Dallas. Beginning by learning the manufacturing side of the family company, then known as Blanks Engraving Co., Leron moved into estimating and sales before becoming President and Chief Executive Officer in 1978. By 1982, he had purchased 100% ownership of what is now known as Blanks Printing & Imaging, Inc. leading the company for the rest of his life, through monumental technological changes in the printing and prepress industry. Today, Blanks continues as a leading employer in West Dallas, a lasting legacy of Leron's dedication to his customers and employees. In recognition of his leadership in business, Leron served on the Advisory Board for Frost Bank and on the Board for the Southwest Prepress Association, was named Printing Industry of America Mid-America Executive of the Year in 2017, and was given the Legends Award by the West Dallas Chamber of Commerce.

Leron was baptized at Edgefield Church of Christ shortly after marrying Nancy, and they both became active members at Prestoncrest Church of Christ after they moved their young family from Oak Cliff to north Dallas in 1972. Leron served as a Bible school teacher, including Bible Credit Courses, a Deacon, and finally as a beloved Elder for more than 20 years. He was so proud of Prestoncrest's ministry to the homeless under the bridges east of downtown Dallas and most recently served as Chair of Prestoncrest's Reopening Task Force.

If you knew Leron, you know that he did everything with passion and excellence, and to

win. He was an avid hunter and fisherman, but golf was his true passion. He began as a young man, playing on the golf teams at Sunset and North Texas, then at his home clubs of Oak Cliff, Bent Tree, and Gleneagles Country Clubs, winning the Club Championship at Bent Tree in 1973. Even through two bouts with lymphoma starting in 2012, Leron never missed an opportunity to play with family and friends, showing perseverance and an unmatched competitive drive while defeating cancer.

But Leron was proudest of his family, whom he loved with God's love and led with the Holy Spirit. He is survived by Nancy, his wife of 58 years, and their two children: Lisa Sue Pipkin and husband Mike of University Park, and Jeff Blanks and wife Crystal of Plano. Also surviving him are his five grandchildren: Hunter Blanks, Michael Pipkin, Mary Ellen Sorrell and husband Ben, Todd Blanks, and Molly Blanks. He was preceded in death by his brother Lyman Blanks and is survived by his twin brother LeRoy Blanks and wife Anita, as well as many other nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 8, 2020, at Prestoncrest Church of Christ, 6022 Preston Crest Lane, in Dallas. To accommodate those who are unable to attend in person, the Celebration of Life will be live streamed on Prestoncrest Church of Christ's YouTube channel. For those attending in person, social distancing and face coverings are required. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you consider contributing in his memory to the Leron Blanks Memorial Children's Ministry Renovation Fund at Prestoncrest Church of Christ.

Comments



“ Leron was a great supporter of the visual communications industry and individual designers like myself. He was always there to support the DSVC and in particular our annual fund raising golf tournament. I will miss greeting him and Jeff as they once again prepare to win the tournament. I will miss even more his gentle smile and friendship.

Ken Koester
Koester Design
Past DSVC Foundation President

Ken Koester - July 15, 2020 at 12:54 PM



“ My family always appreciated that even though Blanks Engraving and our company, Wilson Engraving, were competitors that my dad and Leron had a high mutual respect for each other and were good friends. God bless the Blanks family. Leron is a good man.

Kelly Green

kelly green - July 08, 2020 at 02:28 PM



“ Thank you, Kelly.

Lisa Pipkin - July 09, 2020 at 08:57 PM



“ Dear sweet Nancy,
I just read about Leron. I am so sorry for you and your families loss. He was always a strong Christian example whom I always admired, as I also did you. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers. May you faith in our Lord give you peace.
Most sincerely with love,
Nancy Utley Anderson

Nancy Utley Anderson - July 07, 2020 at 06:11 PM



“ Thank you, Nancy.

Lisa Pipkin - July 09, 2020 at 08:57 PM



“ My sympathies to Nancy, Jeff, Lisa, and to the families.
I will always be grateful to Leron for all the opportunities he gave me for the 25 years I worked for Blanks.
Leron saw the big picture and knew what was important in life, and he showed this every day.
Leron was one of the best people, a truly good man.

Jill McCall - July 07, 2020 at 02:00 PM



“ Thank you, Jill. He loved his Blanks family!

Lisa Pipkin - July 09, 2020 at 08:57 PM



“ It was a honor to have Leron as a friend, neighbor, schoolmate, golf team mate as we grew up as part of the Marydale KIDS. My condolences to Nancy on his passing. I was so happy to see Leron and Nancy at the 50th reunion as we had mostly gone our separate ways after high school. It was indeed a blessing to have know him and we will miss him. Joe LaFoy

Joe LaFoy - July 07, 2020 at 10:13 AM



“ Thank you, Joe.

Lisa Pipkin - July 09, 2020 at 08:57 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Thomas Leron Blanks.



July 06, 2020 at 08:06 PM



“ Katherine and Mike Bandomer purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Thomas Leron Blanks.



Katherine and Mike Bandomer - July 06, 2020 at 04:51 PM



“ Tore' & Nick Rojas purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Thomas Leron Blanks.



Tore' & Nick Rojas - July 06, 2020 at 04:32 PM



“ Fulfillment Team purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Thomas Leron Blanks.



Fulfillment Team - July 06, 2020 at 03:31 PM



“ My sympathies Nancy, Jeff, Lisa and your families. I am finding it difficult to put into words how I feel about the passing of one of the nicest men I have ever known. Leron was not only my employer, I also looked upon him as a friend. It was an honor to be able to pray for him over these past few years. I hope you find comfort in knowing that we may have lost a great man here on earth, but Heaven has gained a very beautiful soul. God Bless all of you.

Jennifer Montana - July 06, 2020 at 11:38 AM



“ Thank you, Jennifer! He counted you as a dear friend as well!

Lisa Pipkin - July 09, 2020 at 08:59 PM



“ My condolences, Nancy, to you and your family. Leron was one of the finest men I have ever known, having known him since Jr High. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him. God bless you and your family during this difficult time. Sincerely, Kay McKinney McKinnon

Kay McKinnon - July 06, 2020 at 02:41 AM



“ Thank you, Kay.

Lisa Pipkin - July 09, 2020 at 09:01 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Leron's passing. I've known Leron and Leroy since the first grade at Rosemont. He was a great person and will be missed by all. Johnny King

John King - July 05, 2020 at 05:05 PM



“ Thank you, John.

Lisa Pipkin - July 09, 2020 at 09:01 PM



“ Lisa Mixon lit a candle in memory of Thomas Leron Blanks



Lisa Mixon - July 05, 2020 at 12:16 PM



“ Thank you, Lisa.

Lisa Pipkin - July 09, 2020 at 09:01 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Thomas Leron Blanks.



July 04, 2020 at 11:33 AM