

*"Twenty-Third Psalm"*

*The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.*

*He restoreth my soul;  
He leadeth me in the paths of  
righteousness for his name's sake.*

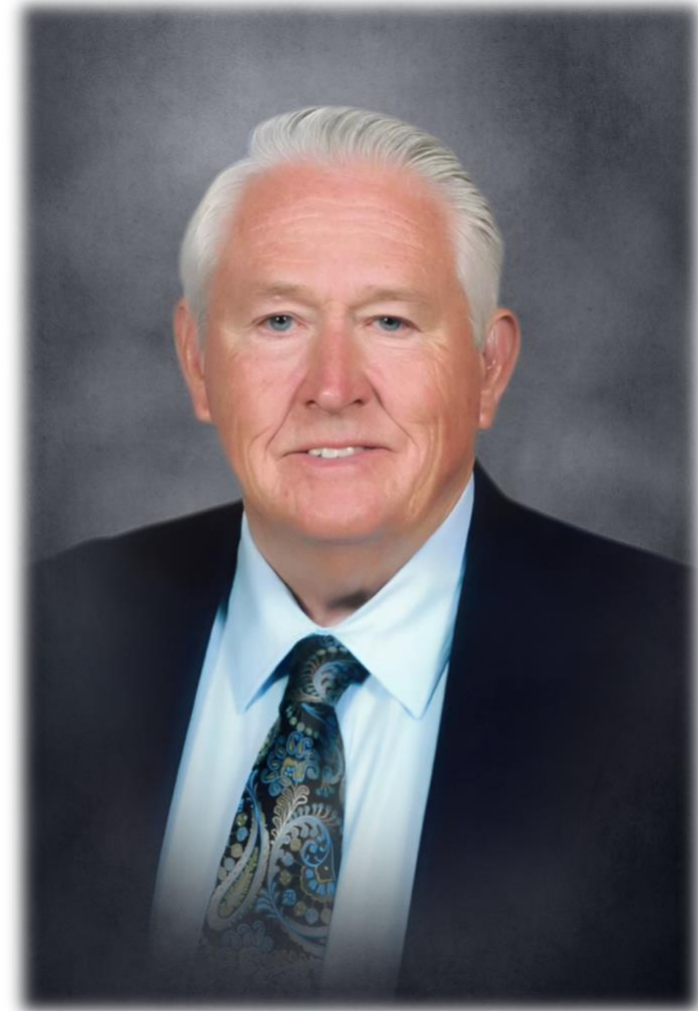
*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the  
shadow of death, I will fear no evil;  
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy  
staff they comfort me.*

*Thou preparest a table before me in the  
presence of mine enemies; thou anointest  
my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow  
me all the days of my life; and I will dwell  
in the house of the Lord forever.*



*Celebrating the Life of*



*Thomas Jefferson Cleveland*  
*December 19, 1938 ~ April 7, 2026*

# *Celebrating...Honoring...Remembering*

*Rock Branch Baptist Church  
Sunday, April 12, 2026, at 3:00p.m.*

## *Order of Service*

<i>Prelude</i>	<i>Mrs. Margaret Purvis</i>
<i>Processional</i>	<i>"Because He Lives" Mrs. Margaret Purvis</i>
<i>"Old Rugged Cross"</i>	<i>Alan Jackson</i>
<i>Remarks</i>	<i>Rev. Sid Tiller</i>
<i>"In The Garden"</i>	<i>Rev. Gary Purvis Mrs. Margaret Purvis</i>
<i>Remarks</i>	<i>Rev. Kevin Vaughn</i>
<i>"Stroll Over Heaven with You"</i>	<i>Alan Jackson</i>
<i>Recessional</i>	<i>"I'll Fly Away" Mrs. Margaret Purvis</i>
<i>Interment</i>	<i>Rock Branch Baptist Church Cemetery Military honors by the United States Army</i>

## *Pallbearers*

*Austin Cleveland, Bobby Berryman, Finn Cleveland  
Derek Thomason, London Mayo, Jim Tiller,  
Steve Tiller, Scott Tiller*

## *Obituary*

Mr. Thomas Jefferson "Tom" Cleveland, 87, of Rock Branch Road, Elberton, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at his residence, with family at his side.

Born in Elberton on December 19, 1938, Tom was the youngest of two children of Paul Jefferson Cleveland and Emma Ward Cleveland. He was the husband of Dorothy 'Elaine' Tiller Cleveland, to whom he was married on June 9, 1963.

Tom was a 1957 graduate of Elberton High School and served his country faithfully for 12 years in the Army National Guard. He began his career with the United States Postal Service as a substitute mail carrier and eventually worked himself up to clerk, retiring after nearly 42 years of service. While working at the Post Office, Tom also prepared taxes and did bookkeeping for several businesses. Never one to stay idle, Tom had rental property after his retirement.

A lifelong resident of the Rock Branch Community, he was an active member of Rock Branch Baptist Church. Tom served as church treasurer for 17 years and as a deacon for many years, serving as Chairman part of that time. He enjoyed the time he spent fellowshiping with the Ruth Sayer Sunday School Class, of which he was a member.

Tom enjoyed traveling and was well-known for the vegetable garden he planted each year as long as his health permitted. His greatest blessing in life, second only to his salvation, was his family. Affectionately known as "Papa", he never missed an opportunity to support his family in any of their endeavors.

Along with his parents, he is preceded in death by his daughter, Marcia Elaine Cleveland; son-in-law, Scott Berryman; daughter-in-law, Jennie Cleveland; and sister, Mary Catherine Cleveland.

In addition to Elaine, his devoted wife, caretaker, and steadfast companion of nearly 63 years, he is survived by his daughter, Melanie Cleveland Berryman of Elberton; son, Michael Cleveland of Lawrenceville; grandsons: Austin Cleveland, Bobby Berryman, and Finn Cleveland.

Contributions, in Tom's memory, may be directed to Rock Branch Baptist Church Building Fund, 2150 Coldwater Road, Elberton, GA 30635.