



## Thomas L. Hardy

August 30, 1943 - December 20, 2021

On August 30, 1943, Thomas L. Hardy Sr., {"Van"}, was born to Tommie Hardy and Curly Mae Hardy in Memphis, Tennessee. His parents, two brothers, and one sister preceded him in death.

Van married Sherry L. Williams and to this union, they reared three children, Rhonda R. Kimbro, Thomas L. Hardy Jr., and Nichelle M. Hardy.

Van received an education in St. Louis City schools. Inspired from his grandmother's cooking, Van developed his cooking skills during adolescence. To start, he worked at a fine dining restaurant in St. Louis City where he quickly moved from dishwashing to salad prep to the sauté station and, then, had chef duties. After a few years, he hired at Al Baker's Restaurant in St. Louis County. As the "CHEF", he was known for "dreaming up" gourmet dishes that became regular menu items of fine dining. He worked there about 30 years until the restaurant closed.

Although Van had a few other business adventures, also; he co-led a softball team with family, loved dogs and football. Known for his "bass" voice, he had a singers' ear and enjoyed sharing vocal music with family and friends. Throughout his life, Van enjoyed times spent with family, relatives, and friends.

Van made a peaceful transition from this life on December 20, 2021 at 4:25pm at a hospital in Columbia, Missouri, where he lived the latter part of his life with Rev. James and Rhonda Kimbro and family.

Van leaves to honor his memory: former-wife, Sherry L. Hardy-Cannon {EliJah}, three children, Rhonda R. Kimbro {James}, Thomas L. Hardy, Jr. {Sharon}, Nichelle M. Hardy, ten grandchildren, two great grandchildren, three brothers, two sisters, cousins, nieces and nephews, and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Valhalla Outdoor Garden Mausoleum

7600 St Charles Rock Road  
St Louis, MO 63133

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 5. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Valhalla Chapel of Memories  
7600 St Charles Rock Road  
St Louis, MO 63133

## Funeral Ceremony

JAN 5. 11:00 AM (CT)

Valhalla Chapel of Memories  
7600 St Charles Rock Road  
St Louis, MO 63133

# Tribute Wall

JB

“ *Joyce Bynum lit a candle in memory of Thomas L. Hardy*



**Joyce Bynum** - February 07, 2022 at 06:57 PM

GM

“ *Van my heart is broken to know that I won't see and talk to you when I visit Rhonda in Columbia Mo. Since I was a very young girl growing up you were always there for me. You were the kind of brother-in-law ever young girl growing up would want. You never told on me when I was stealing my brothers car and smoking cigarettes, giving me money and taking me riding in your convertible car. You were the best brother-in-law and will truly be missed. I will never forget how you and I stayed up all night before my wedding and you prepared the entire dinner for my wedding day. It was beautiful! Thank you for staying in our family, because you were family and now you will be truly missed. Love your sister-law. Gloria*



**Gloria Mueller** - January 02, 2022 at 07:49 PM

HM

*Thank you Chef Van Hardy For The More Training In The Fine Dining of The Culinary Arts Profession,Even Though I Had Already Graduated From Culinary Arts School Working with you and you being another Mentor To Me in Fine Dining,Alone with Working for Mr.Al Baker and His Wife The (Late) Mrs.Mary Baker He also just just Passed March 15th 2022 at (93) years old,Well you all are back together Hosting and Chefing in Heaven, May you all continue to rest in Heaven*

**Herbert Moore** - May 27, 2023 at 06:15 PM