



Thomas Stanley Jess

October 31, 1939 - September 5, 2025

Thomas Stanley Jess passed away on Friday, September 5, 2025.

He was born on October 31, 1939, in Spokane, Washington, to James W. Jess and Florence “Dolly” Jess. Tom attended Coulee-Hartline Schools and played basketball for Coulee City High School, where he graduated in 1957.

After high school, Tom attended Eastern Washington University for a year before returning home to help his father at Jim’s Chevrolet. On June 28, 1958, he married Phyllis McLean, and together they raised two sons, James and Wade.

In 1963, Tom moved to Waterville, where he started and operated the 2nd Jim Jess Implement Store. He later closed the Waterville Store in 1987 and was a silent partner till 1990. Tom then focused on the orchard on Bakers Flat and would later move to East Wenatchee where he farmed the best alfalfa hay in town.

Tom was an avid team roper, winning numerous saddles and buckles, and later retired his beloved rope horses to his grandchildren. He was active in many organizations, serving as Past President of both the Waterville Chamber of Commerce and the Washington Rodeo Association. He was also a charter member and founder of Mid-State Bank in Waterville and a member of USTRC, ACTRA, and the Appleatchee Riding Club. In addition to roping, he

enjoyed fishing and farming alfalfa.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Dorothy Marshall; his brother, Robert Jess; and his brother-in-law, Merle Marshall.

Tom is survived by his wife, Phyllis; his sons, James L. Jess (Shirley) and Wade T. Jess (Stacey); his grandsons, Ty Jess (Jaime), Brandon Jess (Cassie), Garrett Jess (Valerie), and Cody Jess (Cassidy); and great-grandchildren, Coy and Blayce Wallace, Cooper Jess, Boston Jess, Savi Jess, Stella Jess, and Stetson Jess. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Nancy Jess; nieces, Sherry Jess, Cindy Lemke, and Judy Marshall; and nephew, Jerry Marshall.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, September 19, 2025, at Sage Hills Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Diamond J Rodeo Camp. <https://diamondjcowboy.com/donate/> or by mailing Diamond J Rodeo Camp at 376 Maryann Creek Road Oroville, WA 98844

Thoughts and memories may be shared at jonesjonesbetts.com.

Arrangements are in the care of Jones & Jones ~ Betts Funeral Home, Wenatchee.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

SEP **19**. 11:00 AM (PT)

Sage Hills Church
1601 Fifth St
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Tribute Wall



“ Jones & Jones - Betts Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas Stanley Jess



Jones & Jones~Betts Funeral Home - September 17, 2025 at 12:18 PM

ED

A Great Tribute to a Great Family. Thanks for sharing!!! Bless the JESS Family. Love you 🙏🙏🙏🙏

Elizabeth Dixon - October 01, 2025 at 03:10 PM

DL

What a beautiful tribute to a wonderful man, God Bless you all now & always 🙏🙏

Darlene Luedke - October 01, 2025 at 03:43 PM

MN

Thank you, thank you! His parents and my parents played pinochle every Sunday night, so I saw a lot of both Tom and Bob! I sure miss those old, fun times with them!

Marsha Neihart - October 01, 2025 at 05:48 PM

DC

That was truly beautiful. What great memories of a wonderful man who made an incredible impression on family and life. 💕💕💕

Deanna Carpenter - October 04, 2025 at 12:23 AM



“ 13 files added to the album Life Tributes



Jones & Jones~Betts Funeral Home - September 17, 2025 at 12:16 PM



“ I have so many fond memories of Tom from ropings and church as a kid. I just loved visiting with him and Phyllis, and we are saddened to read of his passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
-Jason & Brandy Jordan

brandy jordan - September 12, 2025 at 10:38 PM



“ Mickey & Cindy Cochran planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Stanley Jess.

Mickey & Cindy Cochran - September 10, 2025 at 11:44 AM



“ Mickey & Cindy Cochran purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Thomas Stanley Jess.



Mickey & Cindy Cochran - September 10, 2025 at 11:44 AM



“ 47 files added to the album LifeTributes



Jones & Jones~Betts Funeral Home - September 09, 2025 at 01:57 PM