

## Tom Saywell

May 27, 1938 - December 29, 2025

Frederick Thomas “Tom” Saywell III

(May 27, 1938 – December 29, 2025)

Frederick Thomas “Tom” Saywell III, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, passed away peacefully in Santa Monica, California, on December 29, 2025, at the age of 87, after a long illness.

Tom was born on a warm spring day, May 27, 1938, in Russellville, Alabama, to Frederick Thomas Saywell Jr. and Mabel Wilson Saywell. Even as a boy, Tom’s curiosity and determination were easy to see—traits that would define his life. He had a sharp mind for how things worked, and a gentle humor that drew people near. At Russellville High School, Tom excelled academically, graduating as Salutatorian of his class before heading to Auburn University to pursue engineering, a field that perfectly matched both his intellect and his love of discovery.

After earning his degree in 1960, Tom’s journey took him west to California, where he joined Douglas Aircraft in Santa Monica. It was there, amid the hum of innovation and the optimism of the aerospace industry, that he met Norma Carey—the love of his life. The two married in 1962 and began a partnership that would last more than six decades, marked by deep affection, shared adventures, and steadfast devotion.

Tom's career spanned transformative decades in aviation, as he rose through the ranks of Douglas Aircraft, McDonnell Douglas, and Boeing. His leadership and vision culminated in his role as Director of Facilities in Mesa, Arizona, where he oversaw the design and construction of Boeing's Advanced Development Center—a capstone project that reflected both his technical expertise and his steady, thoughtful approach to every challenge.

While Tom took great pride in his professional achievements, his heart truly belonged to his family. As a father to his daughters, Carey and Julie, Tom was endlessly patient and supportive, always ready with a word of encouragement, a helping hand, or a playful smile. He embraced every moment—whether cheering at school events, leading Indian Princesses outings, or packing up the family for road trips that became the stuff of cherished memory.

When his granddaughter Olivia arrived in 2000, Tom took on a new and joyful title: “Pop-Pop.” He delighted in every laugh, every visit, every chance to witness her grow. Those who knew him best will remember his calm presence, his quick wit, and a kindness that never dimmed. Tom is survived by his devoted wife, Norma; his daughters, Carey Larson and Julie Vo; his sons-in-law, Eric Larson and Son Vo; and his granddaughter, Olivia Larson. His legacy lives on in the love of his family and the countless lives he touched through his generosity, humility, and warmth.

Tom Saywell will be remembered not only for all that he accomplished, but for how deeply he cared—for his family, his friends, and the world around him.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Reflecting on Memories created a Tribute Video in memory of Tom Saywell*

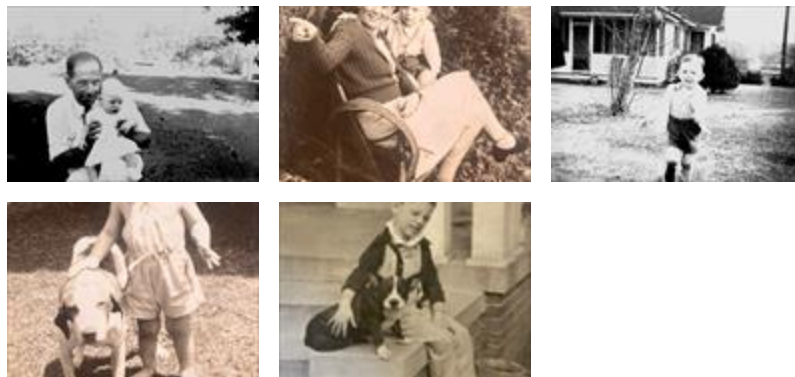


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**Reflecting on Memories** - January 14 at 12:16 AM



“ *85 files added to the album Saywell Family Memories Album*



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**Reflecting on Memories** - January 14 at 11:02 AM