



## Mr. Thomas Joel "Joe" Ellis

December 17, 2011

ELLIS, Thomas Joel "Joe", 57, of Plant City, Florida, departed this life on December 17, 2011. He was an avid fisherman and hunter, enjoyed the outdoors and music, and loved his sons, family and friends. He is survived by his sons Chandler Ellis and Simon Ellis; mother Bonnie Ellis; brothers Michael Ellis, Neil Ellis, and Matthew Ellis; and many loving nieces, nephews, family and friends. He was preceded in death by his father Dr. A.R. Ellis, Jr., and brother William Andrew "Andy" Ellis. A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, December 23 at 3:00 P.M. at Hopewell Funeral Home, 6005 CR 39 S, Plant City, where the family will receive friends beginning at 2:00 P.M. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Bruton Memorial Library, 302 McLendon Street, Plant City 33566. Expressions of condolence at [www.hopewellfuneral.com](http://www.hopewellfuneral.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **23**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Hopewell Funeral Home  
6005 County Road 39 South  
Plant City, FL 33567  
(813) 737-3128  
office@hopewellfuneral.com  
<http://www.hopewellfuneral.com>

## Celebration of Life

DEC **23**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Hopewell Funeral Home  
6005 County Road 39 South  
Plant City, FL 33567  
(813) 737-3128  
office@hopewellfuneral.com  
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# Tribute Wall



“ Hopewell Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Thomas Joel "Joe" Ellis



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**Hopewell Funeral Home** - December 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Harold & Sue lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Joel "Joe" Ellis



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**Harold & Sue** - December 24, 2011 at 03:27 PM

LW

“How about it Produce Man!”

*"Come on Lee"*

*"Where you at?"*

*"I'm over here between the hillbilly and the yellow post."*

*This is a conversation I will miss.*

*I have had the pleasure of Joe's friendship for last 12 years or more. In the time I have got to know Joe I have seen how he touched so many lives.*

*Joe would make you smile even if you were having the worst of days, he would make you laugh if you were having an OK day, he would bring you down laughing in stitches if you were having a good day.*

*I feel blessed to have Joe as my friend.*

*Produce Man put a smile on our face and love in our heart.*

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**Lee Wonders** - December 23, 2011 at 10:28 PM

SK

“Sally Carson Kimmel lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas Joel "Joe" Ellis



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**Sally Carson Kimmel** - December 23, 2011 at 12:56 PM

DK

“ Joe and I go all the way back to Bryan Elementary School. One of the favorite TV shows at that time was Bonanza and we were allowed to only call him "Little Joe" at recess, nothing else! He was always a lot of fun and I never knew him not to have a smile. He was very proud of his sons, always enjoyed talking about them. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.  
*Diane Glisson Kidd*

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**Diane Glisson Kidd** - December 21, 2011 at 08:36 PM

JM

“ I have not seen Joe in many years, yet he was one of my favorite cousins.  
He was always so fun to be around when we were young, I remember he loved civil war history. I remember visiting one time after he and his brothers had been hunting and they let me help pluck the quail and the dove they had shot. I also remember The lake house in Polk county. Grandma Methvin teaching me to fish and eating what we caught.  
*Rest in peace cousin. Jean (Methvin) Manuszak*

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**Jean M Manuszak** - December 21, 2011 at 04:26 PM

JH

“ Joe was my fellow teacher at Falkenburg for the past eleven years. I will miss the talks, lunches, jokes and friendship we had over these years. Joe was happy, caring, sharing man he always had time for a student or a coworker. I will miss Joe's world famous smoked mullet, his hunting stories one year he actually got a buck, and his strange breakfast habits (fried chicken wings & potato wedges at 6:30 am). Joe was a big part of our family at work and will be missed by all. I often read about people that never said a mean word about other people Joe was that person in eleven years he never made a negative comment about any of his coworkers. He was a Plant city country boy who grew into a Plant city country man. Joe decorated his podium with palm fronds and brought in his turkey caller and arrowheads for his students. Every day his class would play hangman with a social studies vocabulary word and they would remember the word because of the game they played. I miss you Joe but I will always remember Joe Ellis the Produce Man.

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**James Hazelton** - December 21, 2011 at 02:24 PM

DR

“ May God be with the family in your loss. Those who believe in the Bible will receive comfort in the scriptures such as John 5:28 and 29 that says all those in the memorial tombs will come out and Acts 24:15 which says there will be a resurrection of the righteous and unrighteous. Matthew 5:5 states in the Sermon on the Mount that the meek will inherit the earth. Heaven is spoken of the destination of many who die, but many scriptures say people will be resurrected to the Earth. We all look forward to what Rev. 21:3 and 4 add: With that I heard a loud voice from the throne say: “Look! The tent of God is with mankind, and he will reside with them, and they will be his peoples. And God himself will be with them. 4 And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away. To be able to be on this new Earth we need to obey what John 17:3 quotes: John 17:3 - This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ. Again may God be with Joe's family and friends.

D. Runyon - December 21, 2011 at 09:46 AM

RG

“ Joe was a funny witty guy who always loved to laugh and have fun. Plant City will miss him for sure. Our sympathy to the Ellis family and may you find great comfort in the memories you hold in your hearts. May you have peace in the days ahead and you face this daily life without him, but remember he lives on in your hearts forever.  
Ron and Vonda Gainey



Ron and Vonda Gainey - December 20, 2011 at 02:08 PM

CO

“ Uncle Joe was extremely loving, fun, witty, and always greeted me with a hug and a smile. He taught me how to drive in the woods when I was a little girl and would do anything we asked of him as kids. I will miss his contagious smile and laugh and will always cherish all of the good times I shared with him. If you didnt get the chance to know Joe, you really missed out! I love you Produce man always and will see you again one day! My love to Chandler, Simon and all of the Ellis family. <3

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**Courtney(Browning)Hammock** - December 20, 2011 at 05:34 AM

CH

I could always count on Joe to bring a smile to my face, make me laugh and entertain everyone around. There are so many memories that flood my mind, and I will cherish them forever. To my dear Chandler and Simon I love you both forever and I pray for you and your family. May the Produce Man RIP! Life as we know it will never be the same.

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**Christine Haney** - December 20, 2011 at 07:54 AM

LK

Enjoyed my friendship with Joe throughout the years ever since becoming a Tomlin Tiger many years ago! His family is a great one and I know they miss both Andy and Joe. Rest in peace good friend, thanks for the memories!!

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**LaRoyce Keene** - December 20, 2011 at 10:29 AM

CB

Uncle joe,my best friend. I will never ever forget the smile that you always had on your face. Every day I would look forward to you calling me and talking to me for hours on the phone. There wasn't a day that you weren't happy and even if something was bothering you,you never let it show. I will never forget the day you showed me how to bait a hook and drive a truck. We had the best finishing trips together.( even though you put the crickets in your pants)..I will never forget all of the great memories that you and I have shared. You are my other daddy and always will be,I look forward to the day that I will get to see you again. I Love you Uncle Joe. RIP

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**Chelsea Browning** - December 22, 2011 at 06:45 PM

BB

*Without Joe,I would have never had a brother. Without Joe I would have never had a best friend. Without Joe I would have never had Simon and Chandler. Without joe I would have never met Andy,Neil,Mike,and Matt. Without joe I would have never met Dr.Ellis and Mrs.Ellis. Without Joe my daughters wouldn't have been raised by myself. Without Joe my life wouldn't be as it is now. Now I'm without Joe, but only in presence not in my mind. I will never be without Joe,one day I will be with Joe again. I love you Produce Man. RIP My Little Buddie.*

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**Bud Browning** - December 22, 2011 at 06:59 PM