

Class of 1950 – Thomas Clark “Tommy” Cogbill.



Thomas Cogbill, a studio musician during Memphis' hottest recording era and later one of Nashville's top session musicians and producers.

Cogbill gained a reputation during the 60's as being the best electric bass guitar players in the South. He worked with some of the nation's top artist, including Elvis Presley, Neil Diamond, Dionne Warwick, and B. J. Thomas.

Cogbill was a graduate of Memphis Technical High School and got his first taste of music when he got guitar lessons at the age of six. Following a stint in the Air Force, he returned to Memphis and began playing sessions guitar.

He became the main bass guitar player at Chips Moman's American Studio here in the 1960s when American was one of the hottest independent studios in the United States. It was American in 1968 that Presley recorded his first album in Memphis included the his "In the Ghetto," which revitalized Presley's career.