



Anna Bentley

March 17, 1925 - March 10, 2007

Anna Lee Bentley Anna Lee Bentley was born on March 17, 1925 in Walnut Springs, TX and passed away on March 7, 2007 in Clear Lake, TX at the age of 81. Mrs. Bentley is survived by her daughters, Karen Johnson and husband Mike, Pamela Giacomini, and grandson, Michael Giacomini. Mrs. Bentley was a retired Houston school teacher. The family will receive friends on Friday, March 9, 2007 from 4 to 5:30 PM at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home – Willis. Services for Mrs. Bentley will be held on Saturday, March 10, 2007 at 2:30 PM in the Chapel of Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home – Willis with the Rev. Richard Nance officiating. Interment to follow in the Willis Cemetery. You may leave a written condolence to the family on our website at www.shmfh.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Anna Bentley*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *I had Mrs. Bentley for Biology and English. I was among the students that build the plywood wall and decomposed it with pictures and book covers. Mrs. Bentley got me started buying paperback books and giving them away. She and I both got little red Toyotas when they first came out (1968). Toyotas have improved a lot since 1968 and I have improved as well because of the seeds Anna Bentley sowed in me to read and learn and share. I work for the Texas prison system and travel across the state teaching crisis intervention and give many books away that in turn help many people that are hurting. Larry Graves is a friend of mine and I was really surprised to see Mrs. Bentley notice in Willis. It is a small world. Bentley family you are in my prayers and thank you for sharing your mom.*

Malcolm Mire

MALCOLM MIRE - March 21, 2007 at 02:10 PM

LF

“ Dear Bentley Family - I would also like to wish your family the deepest of sympathy on the passing of Mrs. Bentley. She was my Senior English teacher and I will always remember her fondly. I learned to expect more out of myself because of a wonderful teacher that also expected it out of me. Showing up for her class unprepared was never an option for me. She may have been my teacher over 30 years ago, but I can remember her and her class like it was yesterday! She will be sorely missed! Thank you Bentley family for sharing a wonderful woman with us! May God bless you all!

Linda Reckless Foley - Class of '72

Linda Reckless Foley - March 14, 2007 at 07:50 PM

RM

“ I just received the news about the passing of Mrs. Bentley and want the entire family to know you are in my thoughts and prayers. Mrs. Bentley pushed me harder than any teacher I ever had, but I really needed pushing. Time in Mrs. Bentley's class was never wasted, it was work from start to finish. I graduated in 1972 and never had the chance to ask her forgiveness for calling her "Battleship Bentley". Mrs. Bentley, made an impression of me by pushing me to do my best...may her reward be great for all her labor.

Ronnie Macey - March 14, 2007 at 12:16 AM

TT

“ Dear Bentley Family: I speak of Mrs. Bentley often when I tell them of my experience in her English class. I used to go home crying when her assignments were so difficult. But little did I know how much her tuff love and those difficult assignments would pay off. My freshman college English professor told me that I should thank my high school English teacher for she did an outstanding job. My peers refer to me as the "letter writing" queen because I can convey a story so well on paper. I will never forget her. To this day, I still feel English is the most important subject in high school. Mrs. Bentley treated all of her students to same. May God bless you all with long and happy memories of her.

Tina Tisby - March 13, 2007 at 08:22 AM

LM

“ THANK YOU MRS. BENTLEY FOR BEING THE BEST ENGLISH TEACHER I EVER HAD. BUT I DIDN'T REALIZE IT UNTIL I ENTERED COLLEGE. BECAUSE I MADE ALL C'S IN YOUR CLASS. IN COLLEGE I MADE ALL A'S. THE TEACHERS USE TO PUT NOTES ON MY [5 PARAGRAPH PAPERS] IN RED INK, ASKING WHO WAS MY ENGLISH TEACHER. THAT'S WHEN I KNEW YOUR STRICT MANNER OF TEACHING PAID OFF.

TO THE BENTLEY FAMILY, MAY GOD GIVE YOU THE JOY,COMFORT,AND PEACE THAT WORDS CANNOT.

AGAPE LOVE,
LARRY MARTIN CLASS OF 1973[FURR HIGH SCHOOL]

LARRY MARTIN - March 11, 2007 at 05:25 PM

EB

“ To Mrs. Bentley Family my deepest condolences to you. I was a student in her biology class in 1965 and a lab assistant afterthat. She was a very caring and wonderful person. She wanted us to learn and reach our goals in life. Thank you for sharing her with us. Elaine Farr Burkhart Class of 1967

Elaine Farr Burkhart - March 10, 2007 at 10:38 PM

KJ

“ Dear Furr alumni,
I tried to reply to each of you, but couldn't get the messsages to go through. However, I am in hopes that some of you may look at this site one more time and see that we have received and deeply appreciate the wonderful memories you have shared. My sister Pam and I will always treasure your thoughtfulness. I hope that each one of you realizes how much of an impact your made on her life, as well. In his poem "Ulysses," Tennyson wrote, "I am a part of all that I have met." My mother's life was the richer for having known each of you.

Sincerely, Karen Bentley Johnson

Karen Bentley Johnson - March 10, 2007 at 07:54 PM

LB

“ There will always be a special place in my heart for Mrs. Bentley. Her class was difficult, but because of it, freshman English in college was a breeze. I always had a tremendous amount of respect for her. She is one of the reasons that I have achieved what I have. She always had the best interests of her students at heart. We have lost a teaching legend. I extend my sincere condolences to the family. Dr. Larry Butcher, Class of '73

Larry Butcher - March 10, 2007 at 06:23 PM

CT

“ Mrs. Bently had a profound impact on my life as my Senior English teacher. It was in her class that I discovered my love for reading and my passion for traveling the world. Mrs. Bently often told stories of her travels which have inspired me to expand my horizons by both traveling and living abroad since graduation. Please know that your Wife, Mother and Grand-Mother had a wonderful impact on the lives of all those she taught. My prayers and thoughts are with you all.

Charles Thornton Class of 1978

Charles F Thornton - March 10, 2007 at 11:08 AM

MG

“ I wish to extend my condolences to the family of Mrs. Bentley. While I did not have her as a teacher at Furr High School, my sisters did. My sisters often talked lovingly about her saying what a great teacher she was-firm but fair and a excellent teacher. I can see from the other condolences that she was a great person and a great teacher. What better legacy to leave than to be a positive influence upon young peoples' lives.

Mary Gresham Gahr

Mary Gahr - March 10, 2007 at 09:01 AM

KD

“ I'd like to offer my heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Bentley's family. Mrs. Bentley was the best teacher I ever had. My graduating class had the pleasure and honor of having her teach us Biology and 2 years of English literature. I learned more in her classes about life and what's truly important in life than in any other class or course of action. She taught us about honor and integrity and working hard and being proud of what we do. The philosophy she lived and shared with us greatly influenced my life. She truly was a gifted teacher who made the world a better place by her efforts, talents and inspiration. Our class motto came directly from her influence: *Learn as if you would live forever, live as if you would die today.*

Rest in peace, dear teacher.

*Kathy Gresham Dreyer
Class of 1969*

Kathy Gresham Dreyer - March 09, 2007 at 10:49 PM

FA

“ The members of the Furr High School Alumni Association extend their condolences to the Bentley family. Anna Bentley's many years of service to Furr High School are appreciated and remembered fondly.

Furr High School Alumni Association - March 09, 2007 at 05:10 PM

SW

“ My deepest sympathy for your loss. I have many fond memories of Mrs. Bently, and can honestly say that of all my teachers and professors, her careful, thorough, and challenging tutelage has had the greatest influence on my life. I can still see her emphatically scribing on the board a quote for us to interpret, offering nothing more than a stern peer over those half-rim glasses while returning to her domain 'behind the wall', leaving us dazed, confused, and challenged to craft an intelligent interpretation that we could defend and discuss in class. I only wish I had the chance one more time to thank her for making all the difference in my life, and in the lives of so many others. My thoughts are with you.

Steve Waring - March 09, 2007 at 02:11 PM

BM

“ I am so sorry to hear about Mrs. Bentley. She was my teacher in the 60s' and made a big impact on me. She was a very good teacher and serious about her work. My prayers will be with the family.

Brenda Boone Mack - March 09, 2007 at 12:42 PM

VK

“ Mrs. Bentley taught my Senior English Class in 1969 and I, too, was afraid of her class - but in short time, I came to realize that she was teaching us not only composition, but thinking skills and the desire to fall in Love with Reading (and Reading leads to Learning. She was focused on her job - Teaching and influencing us all to be able to put down on paper what we read and put into words, our own thoughts. Yes, today, I still have my gray English Reference Book, from her class and wouldn't part with that book for cash money. I grew to greatly honor and respect Mrs. Bentley. One funny occasion I recall was when one of the Coaches came to her class one morning and interrupted her Lecture to take issue with the grade she gave to one of the guys on the football team - I can't remember the Coach's name now, but she did not back down & before the Class was over, everyone overheard their conversation & knew she was not going to take any "guff" off the Coach nor the Student and she was not going to be bullied by any man. Mrs. Bentley was a woman who stood straight and tall and never doubted her thinking, decisions or rationale - at a time when "women's lib" was just getting started - she was the epitome of a liberated woman - not for being a rebel, but for being a dignified lady who had a mind of her own, well-educated and strongly determined to do her very best. And of all the poetry and prose I read in her class, the one that I remember so well is Robert Browning's verse, "Grow old along with me, for the best is yet to be, the Last of Life for which the first was made." May your Last Days have been your Best Days....Much Respect and Well Wishes on your Continued Journey in the Eternal - Mrs. Bentley - Love, Valerie Young Kelton, 1969

Valerie (Young) Kelton - March 09, 2007 at 12:42 PM

C'

“ Anna Bentley is very high on a list of people who helped mold me and who contributed to success in my life and career. She taught us to analyze, to write, and to appreciate. She was tough at a time in our lives when we needed just that, but I remember much more her remarkable sense of humor. I have neither seen nor spoken to Mrs. Bentley in over thirty-five years since graduation, but I will, nevertheless, miss her. I can offer no better tribute than to use the skills she taught me and share them with others. I still have the “English Reference Book” from her class, and although I now use other writing styles, I still thumb through it occasionally for some tidbit of usage, and I remember my teacher when I do. Thank you, Mrs. Bentley, for touching me and so many others.

Charles Gardner '70 - March 09, 2007 at 11:25 AM

MS

“ Of all the teachers I had in high school, I have thought of Mrs. Bentley the most over these 35 years. I have wondered about her and would have loved to talk to her. I remember dreading having to be in her class my junior year because I had heard how tough she was. But I grew to appreciate her and her work ethic. She kept me focused and encouraged me to do my best. My senior year, I had the privilege of being her aide as well as her student. My appreciation for her grew. She always told us her job was to make sure we passed freshman English in college. I did, with flying colors, thanks to her teaching. I remember her telling us she would go hunting, but loved to just sit under a tree and read a book. I hope she had a lot of time to do that after she retired.

My condolences to her family and my prayer that God will put His loving arms around you and give you the comfort you need now and in the days to come. Mrs. Bentley was a great teacher and will be remembered by me for the rest of my life.

Mary Lynn Gary Skelton Class of '71

Mary Lynn Gary Skelton - March 09, 2007 at 10:05 AM

LN

“ Dear Family - I'm so sorry to hear of Mrs. Bentley's passing. I was her student in the '60's, and she made such a difference in my life, also. When I became her lab assistant, I realized that she adopted a tough exterior to hide a tender heart. My friend Janet Hicks and I went camping with the family several times, and had a ball. I will always remember swimming in Peach Creek and midnight walks through the woods. She left a rich legacy in the people she influenced and my prayers are with you.

Linda Durham Nadolski - March 09, 2007 at 09:56 AM

JH

“ Dear friends and family of Mrs. Bentley, I am so very sorry to hear of Mrs. Bentley's passing. Of all the teachers in my life, she was the one who influenced me the most. She could be very tough, but she was always fair. She treated everyone as an individual, and insisted that you do your best. I have tried to locate her so that I could tell her what her encouragement has meant in my life. She inspired me to strive for excellence. Because of her influence, I gained the confidence to pursue a career as a professional musician. For the last ten years, I have been teaching in the public schools. My high school orchestra works under the mission statement, "Strive for a Standard of Excellence." This is something Mrs. Bentley said to me many times. I wish that I could have told her these things while she was still with us. I hope that she knew that she made a profound difference in my life and in the lives of 1,000's of others. I will watch for the funeral arrangements, and will pay my respects if at all possible. Mrs. Howell and I extend our most heartfelt sympathies to you in this great loss. We pray that God will lead you through these difficult times. Joe Howell

From: Joe Howell 03/09/2007 08:08 AM

Joe Howell - March 09, 2007 at 08:10 AM

JH

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