



Bobby Jay Covington

February 23, 1938 - November 15, 2009

COVINGTON Bobby Jay Covington, age 71, passed away Wednesday, November 11, 2009. A celebration of his life will be held on Sunday, November 15 at 2:00 P.M. at the Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville, Texas. The family will receive friends on Saturday, November 14 from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. also at Sam Houston Memorial. Interment will be in the Mays Addition of Oakwood Cemetery. Known as "Cov" or "Ace" to his friends, Bobby was a loving husband to his wife of nearly 16 years, Jenny; a doting, protective daddy to his daughters Monica Sue Nixon, Kristen Elizabeth Covington, his step-daughters Rebecca Margaret Hernandez and husband Val and Jennifer Rachel Rodriguez; and, a proud Grandad and Papo to his grandchildren Chandler and Vaughn Nixon, Hunter and Hayden Parsley, Gabriella and Brody Hernandez. He also is survived by a sister, LaFayne Holt, nephews Mike Brittain and wife, Rhonda and Jack Gordon and nieces Yondi Upchurch and husband Mike, Michelle Castillo, Kim Holt and Ellen Gordon. Bobby, a fraternal twin and only son, was born February 23, 1938 to Leonard "Pete" Levi Covington and Jessie Alciene "Debba" Sapp Covington in Center, Texas. His twin sister, Betty Faye Self, passed away in 1997. Bobby grew up during hard times in East Texas. He helped his dad with carpentry jobs, odd jobs and working cows. He loved building things and treasured using his carpentry tools. A gifted athlete, he excelled at sports, especially baseball. He loved hunting, fishing, golfing or just hanging out with friends. He hit the first grand slam homerun out of Gladewater High School's brand new ballpark.

Bobby graduated from Center High School in Center, Texas. He and his fellow 1956 RoughRiders have remained close through the years. Bobby was a loyal friend and continued to build long-lasting relationships throughout his life. He attended Panola Junior College and then Lamar State College of Technology (Lamar University) on a baseball scholarship as catcher, helping to carry his team to championships. He played semi-pro baseball on one of the St. Louis Cardinals' farm teams. He graduated from Lamar in 1966 with a Bachelors degree in Business Administration. Bobby's 49 year IT career began at Gulf States Utilities in Beaumont where he was instrumental in building their first "electronic" billing systems. He moved on to enjoy a successful career at Tenneco in Houston for almost 20 years. His reputation grew as a project manager and became widely respected in the IT world for his knowledge, integrity, work ethic and management skills. He never managed a failed project. Caught in the downsizing of the 1980's, Bobby turned to consultant work and was recruited to work at the Comptroller of Public Accounts as technical oversight manager to build critical statewide systems. From there, he transferred to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to become the Assistant Director of Information Technology. He shepherded the agency through several transformative projects, modernizing the major systems and completing Year 2000 remediation. He retired from TDCJ on August 31 this year, completing a 19 year public service career. When he wasn't working, Bobby enjoyed taking his girls, Monica and Kris, swimming at the beach or fishing on Sam Rayburn; and deer, dove and elk hunting with wife Jenny and his brother- and sister-in-law, Lynn and Jennifer Pearson. He looked forward to the annual treks to the Shudde Ranch in Sabinal, Texas looking for "Muy". He never stopped smiling when he gave the grandkids rides in the tractor. He loved and spoiled his labs, Dusty, Champ and Morgan. And enjoyed "complaining" about all the new flower beds and trellises Jenny needed. Bobby was a quiet man of few words who worked hard and provided for his family. He was a loyal friend who respected intelligence and competence in others. He loved his work – even at 71, he remained unconvinced retirement

was something he wanted to do. Memorials condolences may be made online at www.shmfh.com.

Tribute Wall



“ Bobby Jay Covington

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ We are so sorry to hear of the loss of your husband.

Bob, Mellicent, Bobby II, Heather, Heath & Justin Wiley - November 24, 2009 at 10:51 AM



“ Jenny,

You don't know me at all and most likely Bobby barely,if at all remembered me. I remember him though. I was a childhood and teenage friend of his niece Sherry... LaFayne's oldest daughter. Our families only lived a few houses apart on the old Timpson Highway in Center. I have so many pleasant memories of him, LaFayne, Sherry, Alcine and Pete. God Bless you all. A part of my childhood, my life, is completely gone now but it and those who were part of it will never be forgotten. God Bless you, I love you all.

Dr. J. Lee (Jimmy) Choron

(I'm Grace and Wilton's son if any of you know who they are now)

James L. (Jimmy) Choron - November 16, 2009 at 10:21 PM

CW

“ Jenny, my deepest sympathy to you and your family. Bobby was my cousin and I had not seen him in a long time, but he always had that wonderful smile. I remember visiting at Uncle Pete and Aunt Alcine's house when I was a child. We always had a lot of fun there. May God bless you and your family during this difficult time.

Cathy Samford Williams - November 15, 2009 at 03:38 PM

RB

“ Jenny my sincere condolences on Bob's passing. I worked with Bob, I could not have asked for a better boss. Bob and three others agreed to allow my daughter and 3 other young girls to interview them on employment opportunities in the IS field. She remembers him and has asked more than once about MR. Covington. She and I will remember Bob and his loved ones in our prayers.

Roger Barbeau - November 15, 2009 at 02:18 PM

LL

“ Dear Jenny and family,
Our youth with Bobby was a special time. As I was looking through our Center, TX High School annual, I noticed a picture of Bobby on one of 'The Favorite's' pages. The caption underneath stated: Most Dependable. After reading some of the comments on this page, I can see that this quality was carried all through the ensuing years. The caption could have added many other traits. I would have added: most caring, friendly, capable, quietly fun loving, a treasured friend, among many other traits.
Our hearts are breaking to lose our treasured friend and for you, dear Jenny and Bob's family.
With love and care,
Lee Gayle Lunsford

Lee Gayle Lunsford - November 14, 2009 at 11:51 PM

TP

“ Jenny, As I have told you before Bobby and I spent alots of time together in high school. I remember the time we spent on the Center square at night visiting with all our friends. Going to the favorite hangout on Tenaha Hwy. I remember going to Panola Jr. College in Carthage with Bobby, playing baseball, the hitch-hiking back to Center after school. After Panola we moved to Orange (with my parents) and went to work and attended Lamar. Time one will not forget. May God bless you with memories of Bobby forever.

Tw Permenter - November 14, 2009 at 08:49 PM

AR

“ Jenny, I went to school in Center with Bobby, and I have only good memories of him. He was always friendly and smiling, and he laughed easily. He has many lifetime friends from Center, and we will miss him. We will continue to pray for you. May God bless you with His presence and comfort.

Alice Sue Muldrow Rhodes - November 14, 2009 at 08:38 PM

GT

“ Jenny, I am so very sorry that the sadness that surrounds you now clouds all the happy memories that all of us who remember Bobby from our childhood are sharing. Fortunately, these will remain far longer than the raw pain of grief and you will be able to read them with a smile and find comfort in knowing that he was loved by so many. I pray for God's grace to secure you and your family in His love and that the peace of sweet memories will comfort you.
Sincerely, Gay

Gay Ashby Thompson - November 14, 2009 at 05:59 PM

JS

“ Jenny - Bobby hired me at Tenneco back in 1979 and he opened up a whole new world for me in Texas. If it had not been for Bobby I would not have met my husband of 26 years and had the wonderful life I have had here. Bobby was a wonderful man and I thoroughly enjoyed the years I worked for and with him. If I ever needed advice on a job decision I knew I could count on him. A lot of changes have taken place in peoples lives over the years but from reading some of the other notes it sounds like Bobby has continued to be a wonderful, caring person. My prayers are with you.

Joni Scott - November 14, 2009 at 05:39 PM

DM

“ Jenny, I only got to work with Mr. Covington for 3 or so years, but they were good years. I enjoyed Bob. He would see me in the hall and he would always greet me with a smile and a "how's it going guy". I miss that. We had a lot in common. We could talk of the old days of computer rooms and how good they were. I will miss him. My condolences and prayers are with you and your family.

David C. McCartney - November 14, 2009 at 04:43 PM

JJ

“ Jenny, Bobby was one of my closest friends during high school. We did everything together..played football and baseball..so many wonderful memories. As you remember, we were planning on you all visiting when he retired...so sorry we never made it...but, I know that there will be a time when we will meet again and rehash all those memories. May God be with you and your family...My prayers are with you

James Lee Johnstone - November 14, 2009 at 04:12 PM

CW

“ Jenny,
I was also a classmate of Bobby's and in the Class of 56. He was such a nice guy and one you always have good memories of from our school days together.
We are praying for you in this time of sorrow.
Cecil Watlington

cecil watlington - November 14, 2009 at 03:04 PM

NR

“ Jenny, *I have never had the opportunity to meet you, But have heard so much about you, I love you sight unseen. Bobby was a real good boy in school with a big smile for everyone. I know how hard its going to be for the next few weeks. I lost my husband when we were 49 and it's something else. The only thing I can tell you is keep you faith in tact and GOD will see you through. May God bless you and your family.*

Norma Boniol Rudd - November 14, 2009 at 02:20 PM

PS

“ Jenny, *It is very hard to say just how important Bob was in my life. He was my direct supervisor for 12 years. He was a mentor that all should desire to have. He led me by example, he had faith in you and trusted that you would do a good job. MOST of all, he was my friend. I am saddened by the fact that he had no true retirement, but thrilled that he is with his Lord & Savior, hunting, tractoring, and whatever else he desires. Keep your faith, your memories will never fade and will forever remain in your heart, & your love will only grow. I am only a phone call away. I would love to hear all about your herbs again. God Bless you!*

Patricia Shelly - November 13, 2009 at 08:56 PM

JB

“ Jenny,
I'm another one of those Center High School classmates that remembers a great person and a great friend in Bobby. We grew up together, we played baseball together, and our dads were best of friends. I met you at Pat Glenn Eisenrich's memorial service. How could we possibly have known it was the last time I would see Bobby on this side of eternity. Please accept my heartfelt condolences at a time when I am at a loss to say more. May God bless you in this time of sorrow.
Jerry

Jerry Bradshaw - November 13, 2009 at 07:57 PM

JM

“ *My heartfelt condolences to Bob's family and friends. You are in my prayers during this sad time for you.*
Judi

Judi Mott - November 13, 2009 at 07:56 PM

PH

“ Jenny,
Although I know words offer small comfort in your hour of sorrow, I do wish to express my sincere sympathy to you on the loss of your beloved husband, Bob.
Bob was a good boss and I feel blessed to have worked for him.
You are in my prayers.
Sincerely,
Patricia

Patricia Hipps - November 13, 2009 at 07:07 PM

MR

“ Bobby was my manager in the Tenneco days and he was always warm, friendly and welcoming when you had to visit his office. Always loved the picture of him in his boat with the fog that made him look like he was fishing in the clouds. I am sure that is what he is doing now fishing in the clouds. My thoughts and prayers to his family, he was one of the good guys and will be dearly missed.

Mary Ramos - November 13, 2009 at 06:59 PM

JV

“ Jenny,
As one of Bob's Austin TDCJ staff of many years, Bob supported people for where they came from, and what they overcame to get to where they were. He had great respect for hard work, team spirit, and company loyalty. He also enjoyed his time away from work, stopping by for BBQ in Elgin, enjoying friends at lunch, and sports, hunting, fishing, and home. He appeared to me to be someone who enjoyed his life, and would be fun to be around. Many heartfelt sympathies for your loss.

Janet Vanderveer - November 13, 2009 at 04:37 PM

JB

“ I worked with Mr. Covington back when I had dual supervision through Data Services & Purchasing at TDCJ. He was always a pleasant & caring supervisor and always had a smile on his face. I am sorry for the family's loss and please know that your family is in our thoughts & prayers.

Jamie Brinegar - November 13, 2009 at 03:08 PM

AP

“ God Bless you at this difficult time. I also grew up in Center at the same time as Bobby. He was very well-liked by all of his friends and he does have so many who speak very highly of him. God be with you in the days that are ahead. You are in my prayers.

Annette Sanders Person
Class of 1955

Annette Sanders Person - November 13, 2009 at 02:11 PM

BB

“ I worked with Bobby at Tennessee Gas and the State Comptrollers Office. His bigger than life smile will be missed.

Bill Britton - November 13, 2009 at 09:53 AM

CS

“ Heart goes out to all the family. Bobby was a great man and some I looked up to as a young man.

Charles Stirling - November 13, 2009 at 09:50 AM

JF

“ Bobby was a good friend and co-worker during our days at Tenneco. I have many, many good memories of our time together at work and away from work. My prayers and thoughts are with Bobby's family and our many friends in common who share in this earthly loss and heaven's gain.

John Fort - November 12, 2009 at 11:58 PM

AH

“ Dear Jenny,
The thoughts and prayers of Bobby's classmates have been with you and Bobby throughout the difficult time of his illness and passing, and will continue to be with you during the difficult days ahead. Growing up in Center in the time period which we did, was such a wonderful gift that we were Providentially given. It was a time of innocence and happy, carefree childhood, when our world was a safe and happy place, and we were endowed with instinctive love and loyalty for our classmates. I am sure that the attributes which were formed during childhood were some of the reasons that you fell in love with him. Be assured that our love and loyalty remains with you, even though many of us have never met you. I know you were so devoted to Bobby and his care, and we all love you for that.

Love,
Ann

Ann Harmon - November 12, 2009 at 08:16 PM

DJ

“ Jenny, my deepest condolences to you and the family. I am just one among many who grew up with Bobby and remember the good times of our youth, when we all thought we'd live forever. I can't be there, but my prayers are with you now and in the days to come.

Don

Don Jacobs - November 12, 2009 at 05:40 PM

AK

“ Jenny, my prayers are with you and your family. May you feel God's love, support and strength. Annie Kelly

Annie Kelly - November 12, 2009 at 05:14 PM

IS

“ We are truly sorry for your loss. Bob always had a ready smile for everyone. We will miss him. Our prayers are with you and your family.

ITD Training Staff - November 12, 2009 at 04:35 PM

DG

“ My heart goes out to you, Jenny. May God comfort you and your family.

Dianne Gibson - November 12, 2009 at 04:07 PM

MS

“ I worked with Mr. Covington for several years and always found him to be supportive and helpful. I had hoped he would have a happy and long retirement. I am heartbroken that he left us so soon. My prayers go out to his family.

Marcia Schoonover - November 12, 2009 at 03:17 PM

LB

“ We're going to miss Bob. Every time we came to Huntsville he always greeted us with a big smile and a hardy "what's up guys". He was always there to listen, advise, argue with and have a genuine good time. TDCJ was going to miss him anyway, now we're all going to miss him more than ever. Jenny you have my deepest and heartfelt condolences. Bob's life was way to short.

Les Bevil - November 12, 2009 at 02:56 PM

TF

“ Jenny, I am so sorry that we lost Bob. It is our loss, too, but I realize you will have the greatest loss. My heart goes out to you. I am so glad the two of you found each other and had some good years together. If you ever need company or to talk, just call. Bob was a wonderful man and very deserving of the greatest respect. He will be missed.

Trudy Fuchs - November 12, 2009 at 02:21 PM

MS

“ Bob was such a great guy! We will all miss him. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Marty Stuber - November 12, 2009 at 01:13 PM

SO

“ Your fellow family at State Counsel for Offenders wishes to express our sincere condolences. Our thoughts are with you during this most difficult time.

State Counsel for Offenders - November 12, 2009 at 12:54 PM