



Dr. Bobby Kees Marks

May 17, 1934 - March 7, 2021

Dr. Bobby Kees Marks passed away on Sunday, March 7, 2021, at the age of 86. He passed peacefully at his home in Huntsville, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank A. Marks, Jr. and Alma Lucille Kees Marks. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Colleen Ann McDonald Marks, daughters Denice Leanne Marks Crosby and husband Daniel, Donna Deanne Marks Laverell and husband Les, grandchildren Kimberly Ann Hall Richer and husband Corey, James Aaron Hall, and great-grandson Finnick Angus Richer, as well as extended family to include Jade Marie Laverell Deal and husband Shane, and their children Theodore and Rose.

Bob and Colleen met during the first week of their freshman year in college and dated their four years of undergraduate studies, becoming engaged during the last year. They married the summer after graduating from Lamar University in 1956.

After growing up in Beaumont, Texas, Bob graduated with his BBA from Lamar University. He furthered his education by obtaining his MBA from the University of North Texas and later attained his Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas, graduating Beta Gamma Sigma.

Dr. Marks served in the U.S. Army. After completing basic training at Fort Carson, Colorado, he attended the Army Administration School at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. He remained as a Cadre at Fort Chaffee until going overseas to France in Headquarters Company, Petroleum Distribution

Command, serving first in Orleans and then in Fontainebleau, France. Bob and Colleen Marks were Charter members of Elkins Lake Baptist Church, where Bob taught various Bible Study classes, as well as served as Deacon, Trustee and chair of various committees. He also served on the Board of Directors of First National Bank South, American Bank, the Economic Development Corporation, the Walker County Industrial Development Corporation, and the City of Huntsville Planning Commission. As an active member of the Rotary Club for many years, he held various offices and was a Paul Harris Fellow. He also served as president of the Huntsville High School Band Boosters. Dr. Marks served as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Huntsville/Walker County Chamber of Commerce, receiving "Outstanding Member Award" and was also the first recipient of the "Mance Park Lifetime Achievement Award." He also chaired the Founding Board of Directors for the Huntsville Leadership Institute.

In addition to serving the community, Dr. Marks held several state and national offices, among which were Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Texas International Education Consortium, President of Chief Academic Officers of the Southern States, served on the Executive Committee of the Renaissance Group, and on the Board of Directors of the Association of Texas Colleges and Universities.

Dr. Marks' 41-year career with Sam Houston State University began in 1960 as an instructor of Business Administration. He later served as Dean of the College of Business Administration for 15 years, as Vice President for Academic Affairs for 11 years, and retired in September 2001 after serving six years as President of the university. Dr. Marks' presidency stressed Student retention, internationalization of the curriculum, application of technology to instructional programs, and fund raising. Upon retirement, the Board of Regents awarded Dr. Marks the title of "President Emeritus" and named the Administration Building the "Bobby K. Marks Administration Building." Additionally, the City of Huntsville named a street which runs through the university campus, "Bobby K. Marks Dr."

Bob will be remembered as a loving husband and father who enjoyed skeet shooting, fly fishing, spending time outdoors and traveling with his wife and family.

Services will be held on Friday, March 12th at 11:00am and are private for family only. All others may view the live stream at the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/elkinslakebaptistchurch/>

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Elkins Lake Baptist Church, 206 SH 19, Huntsville, Texas 77340, <https://secure.subsplash.com/ui/access/3BCJGZ>

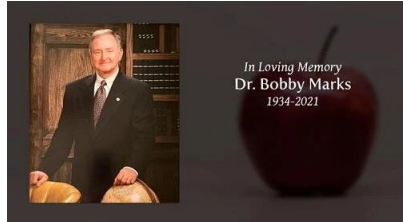
or to the Bobby Kees and Colleen Ann Marks Presidential Endowed Scholarship, Sam Houston State University, PO Box 2537, Huntsville, Texas 77341.

<https://www.tributeslides.com/tributes/show/MPJQQH34LLHNT3PB>

Tribute Wall



“ *Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Bobby Kees Marks*



Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - March 12, 2021 at 09:08 AM

AW

What a beautiful tribute to a great man. May you rest in peace Dr. Bobby Kees Marks. Prayers for all family and friends. ~ Bearkat forever, Amy Biscamp Wilkie (S.H.S.U. Alumni 2002).

Amy Biscmap Wilkie - March 12, 2021 at 10:01 AM

GJ

What a beautiful sweep of a life so very well lived as loving husband, father, mentor, neighbor and example. Truly a Man of God who spent his life investing in others. Our Prayers for all the family. Don and Gwynne Johnson

Gwynne Johnson - March 12, 2021 at 05:34 PM

GB

Both Harry and I were saddened to hear of this loss! He brought back many memories for Harry and considered him a dear friend! Condolences to family, he will be missed!

grace and Harry Bohan - March 13, 2021 at 01:39 PM

MF

Mrs. Marks, my sisters Melissa and Mollie join me in sending our condolences to your family. The video brought back memories of teenage years babysitting for the girls and of my respect for you and Dr. Marks. I remember your sewing matching exquisite Easter dresses for the girls, and that you once left cheese straws out to cool. I may have sampled one or two. I also may have let Donna wander into the "woods" once. Your home was peaceful, and your love for one another evident.

*Melinda Morris Freeman
(family of Elizabeth & Curtis Morris)*

Melinda Freeman - March 14, 2021 at 02:24 PM



“ *Dr. Bobby Kees Marks*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Dr. Marks and his wife, my second grade teacher, always made me feel special! Whether running into them in town or at a university event, they were always glad to see me! I didn't realize what a celebrity he was until later on in life. To me, he was, and always will be, the "sidekick" to my favorite teacher! As a couple, you could feel the love they had for one another and, more importantly, for the Lord. God guided them through out life and they loved others, just as the Bible commands us to do! I will forever be impressed with Dr. Marks impeccable memory. He made a point to know my husband, John and I by name. I am praying for the entire Marks family. Dr. Marks is in perfect health again and he is with Jesus! What a priceless gain!*

Rachel Yarabeck - March 26, 2021 at 02:31 PM



“ *Dearest Denise & the Marks family: Praying God will hold you in HIS loving arms, and grant each of you peace that passes all understanding now, and in the days ahead! My sincerest sympathies, Denise Snyder Lane.*



Denise Snyder-Lane - March 17, 2021 at 07:25 AM

LR

“ *Dr. Marks left an indelible mark on Sam Houston State University and on me. He was a great educator and leader. In 1967 he taught my Business and Economic Statistics class and I was so impressed with his skill. He made the subject matter come to life and helped his students see practical applications in our future careers. Before I graduated, he took over as the Dean of the Business School and helped elevate the quality and reputation of the school. After I graduated, BBA 68 and MBA 69, I was not surprised to learn that he, just a few years later, became University President. As a new resident of Elkins Lake I was so pleased to learn that Dr. Marks was my neighbor. Because of COVID we were not able to get together physically but we did have a few chats online and had plans to meet up when the pandemic was over. I will always remember Dr. Marks. It was a real blessing to have him as a professor and guide. God bless the Mark's family.*



Larry C Reid - March 14, 2021 at 06:54 PM

JC

“ I has Dr. Marks for a IRS accounting class in the early 1960's, and he was an excellent teacher. I also ran into him in Alvin, Texas when he was visiting the junior college about 20 years ago. J. E. "JASPER" Tramonte BBA 1962, MBA 1964.

JASPER TRAMONTE, CCIM - March 14, 2021 at 05:40 PM

NG

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Marks family during this difficult time.

-- Nancy Gray, HHS Class of 1985

Nancy Gajan - March 13, 2021 at 04:02 PM

JH

“ Dear Colleen & Family,
We are so sorry to hear of the passing of Bobby - he never would let us call him "Dr. Marks".
We know how much he loved RVing and our only regret is that we never went with two of you.
Please know that we have you and your family in our thoughts and prayers.
Sincerely,
Jo & Stan Hines

Jo & Stan Hines - March 13, 2021 at 09:03 AM



“ *Charlotte Efird lit a candle in memory of Dr. Bobby Kees Marks*



Charlotte Efird - March 12, 2021 at 09:27 PM



Colleen I'm so sorry to hear this. Wish I could give you a physical hug.

Charlotte Efird - March 12, 2021 at 09:28 PM

SR

“ *Dearest Colleen and family,
I am so sorry for your loss. Dr. Marks was such a sweet, kind man and he always had a smile for everyone. Colleen, I cannot imagine how hard this is for you. Please know you are in my prayers. I know Dr. Marks is blessed to be with our Lord and Savior in Heaven and he will be waiting for us to join him.*

Susan Retzlaff - March 12, 2021 at 02:59 PM

WD

“ *We are so sorry for the loss of Dr. Marks. Our Huntsville and SHSU community has lost an icon. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. We will miss him.*

*Very Truly Yours,
Will & Kathy Durham*

Will & Kathy Durham - March 12, 2021 at 12:10 PM

DH

“ *Such a gentle man and great educator.*

Dr. David Henderson - March 12, 2021 at 07:06 AM



“ *"The measure of life is its service." - General Sam Houston. Dr. Marks was a great man.*

Allan Rushing - March 11, 2021 at 07:24 PM



“ *Dr. Marks was a kind and amazing man. Sincere condolences to his many friends and family members. He will be missed.*

Allan Rushing - March 11, 2021 at 07:20 PM



“ *Mr Marks i will never forget you i always will remember your compliments you always gave me and I will never forget two small stirephone cups of coffee for you in your wife. Mrs Marks im sorry for your loss may RIP Mr Marks. Your server*

Ben Johnson

Ben Johnson - March 11, 2021 at 06:12 PM



“ *I'm sorry for your loss.*



Mellicent Wiley - March 11, 2021 at 05:03 PM

FA

“ My heart goes out to you, Colleen. You and Bob were such a special couple. Your love was meant to be. I remember our times at Lamar and enjoyed reading all the wonderful things Bob accomplished. I am keeping you and your family in my prayers.
Frances

Frances Alberto - March 11, 2021 at 04:04 PM

LB

“ Colleen, I am so sorry to read about Bob's passing, but what wonderful tributes people have written about him. I will never forget our Lamar years together. He was truly a good person, and I know that he will truly be missed by so many. Love to you and the girls at this time. Luci Booker

Lucianna Booker - March 11, 2021 at 03:17 PM

DW

“ “A job well done My Friend,” is my first thought about Dr. Bob Marks. It saddens me that we have lost this dear man, but his legacy will live on. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with him. I shall treasure the memories, and one of my favorites is the mischievous glint in his eyes at times.
Dearest Colleen and family, my thoughts are with you and I share your sorrow.
Love,
Dorothy Wooten

Dorothy Wooten - March 11, 2021 at 12:54 PM

SF

“ May God be with the Marks family. You will be missed Dr. Marks.

Scott Francis - March 11, 2021 at 10:09 AM

JJ

“ *My heart hurts for the loss of Dr. Marks. He was so kind to me as an employee of the university. My prayers are with the family during this difficult time.*

Jeannine Jacoby - March 11, 2021 at 09:49 AM

DK

“ *May God embrace the Marks family with his loving and healing spirit.*

Dianne Duncan Key - March 11, 2021 at 03:48 AM

VS

“ *Colleen,*

Judy and I are deeply saddened by Bobby's passing. We will keep you and your family in our prayers.

Vic & Judy Sower

Victor Sower - March 10, 2021 at 10:49 PM

DE

“ *There are some people you hope will never leave this earth and Dr. Bob Marks was one of them. I am so sad after hearing this. He was a wonderful mentor for me in my years at the Chamber of Commerce, and I wish I could talk to him again. You could always see that spark in his eyes, that love he had for Colleen and his daughters, and his gentle manners. My life was made better by Bob Marks and I know I am one of thousands whose path he crossed. Rest my wonderful friend - you will be missed! Colleen and family, love and prayers as you navigate the days ahead! You are loved!!!*

Dee Everett - March 10, 2021 at 09:52 PM



“ *Dr. Bobby Marks was the dean of the College of Business when I attended Sam Houston State University. He was well respected by the students because he cared about the welfare of the students in the College of Business. Later as President of the university, he accomplished much towards the physical campus as well as academically. I'm grateful for all of his contributions.*

*Roland K. Hendricks
SHSU - Class of 1980
Dow Retiree*

Roland Hendricks - March 10, 2021 at 09:27 PM

PJ

“ *President Bob Marks is one of the finest people that I've had the pleasure of knowing! I owe a great of who I am today to President Marks. I will miss his greatly! Preston Johnson Jr.*

Preston Johnson Jr - March 10, 2021 at 08:56 PM



“ *Growing up in the small town of Huntsville, I met a very sweet and wonderful girl, Denice Marks. During our relationship, her dad, Dr. Marks was the most patient and kind dad to us. One evening, he came into the parlor, announced the time and said that it might be time for me to go home (almost 1 am). He was polite and loving. On a personal level, he will be missed. Denice and Donna, if you ever read this, know that your dad was a nice man to me and it has been such a pleasure, and honor, to know him.*

Thomas Sanders - March 10, 2021 at 07:58 PM



“ *Thomas Sanders lit a candle in memory of Dr. Bobby Kees Marks*



Thomas Sanders - March 10, 2021 at 07:53 PM



“ *The Marks family became our next door neighbors when we moved to Huntsville (I was only 3 years old). They became second parents to my sister, brother and myself. I will never forget the bridge that was built in between our yards! I have nothing but wonderful memories of growing up beside their family! My prayers and condolences are with Colleen, Denice, Donna as well as their families!!*

Leigh McMillan - March 10, 2021 at 06:41 PM

MA

“ Colleen,
You and your family are in our prayers. I have been blessed to have your family a part of most of my memorable life. Growing up with Donna I knew you both as "parents" and later in life getting to know Dr. Marks as I joined SHSU as a co-worker and eventually Missy and I were able to get to know you both on a personal side at University events. Dr. Marks also gave me a connection to my family as he would share stories of customer service mentoring my grandfather give him as a young faculty visiting Guerrant's Luck 7 grocery. I also had an early learning moment in life in the IT department when I deleted what I thought was a test computer account "Marks" I had set up for myself. Turned out it was Dr. Marks!!!! Yikes. He took it well, had a laugh and we got him going again. Big hug and lots of love to you and all of your family. Thank you for sharing him with us and for all he did to make life happier for those around him and for helping to make SHSU a great place to be.

Mark & Missy Adams

Mark Adams - March 10, 2021 at 05:39 PM

RM

“ Bob and Colleen were our first neighbors in Forest Hills in 1969. We have so many wonderful memories of those days when our children were young. Bob was a kind and wise man and loved his family dearly. He loved life and always had the warmest greeting. His passing has saddened my heart this week. Rest In Peace Bob and we will see you again one day. Deepest sympathy goes to his precious family 🙏

Ron and Derril Mitchell - March 10, 2021 at 04:51 PM

CB

“ Colleen and family,
Dr. Mark's and Colleen have always been a help and support to me. I treasure the years working with him in the office at SHSU. What a great man, but also a kind and wise man. I will definitely miss him and keep the good times in my memory.
Rest In Peace and sing in Heaven. Love, Cheryl Bumpass

Cheryl Bumpass - March 10, 2021 at 02:03 PM

LR

“ My first memory of my Uncle Bob was when I was very young. Maybe kindergarten age? He would ask me to spell his name, and I would say "B . . O . . B". He would then tell me, "you were so close - but that's backwards"! I would try again and he would say the same thing. We could do this until he gave out. He would also bark like a dog and grab my leg when I walked by, then feign ignorance and talk about "the big dog that ran that way". When I grew into an adult and joined the family "business" by working at his alma mater, we didn't talk often but when we did, he always offered the best advice and guidance. I respected him, immensely. I know that he loved his life and felt blessed to share it with his family who were the most important things in his life. He was so proud of both of his daughters. Uncle Bob, I will miss you. Enjoy your rest now and we'll all see you again soon.

Laurie Ritchel - March 10, 2021 at 01:04 PM

GG

“ Dr. Marks exemplified the SHSU motto. A life of service well-lived. Blessings to the Marks family.

Gregory Gathright - March 10, 2021 at 12:50 PM

MH

“ *M. Hyvl sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Bobby Kees Marks*



M. Hyvl - March 10, 2021 at 11:44 AM