



## Boley Francis O'Bannon

August 18, 1924 - January 19, 2007

Boley Francis O'Bannon passed away on January 12, 2007, in Huntsville, Texas, after a short, courageous battle with cancer. He was born on August 18, 1924, in Huntsville, Texas, to Grady and Jewell (Bogard) O'Bannon. Boley is preceded in death by his mother, father, two brothers, Thomas and Bobby and one sister, Nancy. He is survived by his loving wife of sixty years Betty O'Bannon of Huntsville; one daughter, Gayle Gerlich, her husband, Mark, of Houston; one son, Mike O'Bannon, of Huntsville; three granddaughters, Rebecca Dyan Gerlich Krauss, and her husband, Seth, of Austin, Texas, Jessica Elizabeth Gerlich and Sara Whitney Gerlich of Houston, Texas; and one great-grandson Benjamin Adam Krauss. Boley graduated from Huntsville High School in 1941, and later attended Sam Houston State University. He was a football letterman at the university for the years 1943, 1946, 1947 and 1948. Boley served in the United States Marine Corps during 1944 to 1945. After leaving the United States Marine Corp, he married his college sweetheart, Betty Morrison, in 1946. In 1949, Boley began his insurance business, which his son, Mike continues to date. Boley was a leader in many of the organizations that have made Huntsville the strong, growing community it is today. He was president of the Chamber of Commerce and a Chamber Ambassador. He was on the founding board of the hospital district. He served as a director for the Huntsville Savings and Loan. He was a great ambassador for the community of Huntsville. Boley was always active in supporting Sam Houston State University. He was a life-time member of the SHSU Alumni and

Letterman's Association. He actively supported athletics at SHSU for more than fifty years. He was inducted into the Letterman's Hall of Honor in 1994. Boley was a devoted husband, wonderful father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He will be greatly missed by his family and all those who knew and loved him. A memorial service will be held at 11 o'clock on Friday, January 19, 2007 at First Methodist Church of Huntsville. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to either H.E.A.R.T.S. Veterans Museum of Texas, Sam Houston State University, and First Methodist Church. Memorial condolences may be left for the family at [www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Boley Francis O'Bannon*

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November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Dear Gayle, Mike and Miss Betty,  
I am so very sorry for your loss. I have many fond memories of Mr. Boley & Miss Betty while growing up. They used to take me out to dinner, usually to the Chicken Shack, which was my favorite!  
He was a wonderful man. I know he is up there with my mother, father and a host of their other friends and is watching over all of us.  
My thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this difficult time.*

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**Jetta Felder** - January 22, 2007 at 12:39 PM



“ *We are so sorry to hear of Boley's passing. He was a wonderful man. He was a a blessing to work with at the Huntsville Savings & Loan. He was a true leader in the community. Boley will be missed. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Please let us know if we can do anything to help you during this trying time.*

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**Bob, Mellicent, Bobby II, Heather, Heath & Justin Wiley** - January 19, 2007 at 06:44 PM

AF

“ Dear Mike, Betty, Gayle, Mark, Sara, Rebecca, and Jessica,

*Roger and I were so sorry to hear of Bo's passing. We feel as if we have known your family forever and Bo will be sadly missed when we visit at the lakehouse.*

*Roger, Annie and Family*

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**Annie, Roger and Family** - January 18, 2007 at 11:05 PM

JM

“ Many years ago while visiting in Franklin, Texas, and learning I was a freshman at S H, a family friend, Jeff Nicholson, asked to deliver a hello to the milk man. Puzzled, but knowing it was a gesture of friendship I tried to track down the milk man for days. Our late friend Wesley Coburn directed me to the insurance office west of the Texan. Explaining my search, I remember him grinning, the rest is history. That day I became acquainted with a man of integrity, a fine wonderful man. A good man. He earned respect. He did not have to remember what he told you. A remarkable man with thousands of friends statewide. Boley was MR Insurance of Huntsville, an icon in his profession. Remembering that smile; Mike, prayers for your family during this difficult time. Most sincerely, James W Martin

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**James W Martin** - January 18, 2007 at 06:56 PM

SM

“ To my Thomason-O'Bannon Insurance Family,  
Please know that my prayers and sincere sympathy go out to you. I will always regard Mr. O'Bannon as a mentor (Mrs. O'Bannon also). I have the privilege of assisting my husband in his business and often times I think of my days at the insurance company and how well Betty and Boley worked together as husband and wife. I really want to make it to the service, but as of right now, I am just not sure if I can make it. Please know that my heart is in fellowship with yours.

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**Stephine Hagans McCoy** - January 18, 2007 at 05:58 PM

TW

“ Though I didn't know Mr. O'Bannon well, I knew him for 26 years and always thought he was a kind man. I know you will miss him and hope you will be comforted by the thoughts and prayers of the many who admired him.

*Terry Wells*

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**Terry Wells** - January 18, 2007 at 05:28 PM

MM

“ Mike, Gale and Mrs. O'Bannon we are all so sorry for your loss, Boley has meant so much to Huntsville, Sam Houston and everyone that knew him. He will truly be missed. He is in a much better place and I know he will get to reunite with old friends. Our love and prayers are with all of you during this time.

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**Mike & Kathy Murray, Karma & Marie** - January 18, 2007 at 04:29 PM

AJ

“ My thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this time. Mr. O'Bannon was an honest, kind, and patient man, and a father figure in my life. He will be missed dearly by so many who loved and respected him.

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**Annette Johnson** - January 18, 2007 at 03:43 PM

GM

“ Dear Folks: Not only have you suffered a tremendous loss, but our community has also. Boley was one of those special people that can not be replaced. Our prayers will be to give you comfort in the difficult days ahead. Love George and Beth

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**George & Beth Miles** - January 18, 2007 at 01:50 PM

TL

“ We were saddened to hear about Boley passing away. Our deepest sympathy to the family.

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**Tuffy and LaVera** - January 17, 2007 at 08:26 PM

DW

“ Mr. O'Bannon was always so nice to the people on the sports teams with Mike, he was like a father to many of us whose fathers could not attend practices or games. He will be missed as he was a truly good person. Our condolences to Mike, Gayle and Mrs. O'Bannon. Darrel and Marcella Wells

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**darrel wells** - January 17, 2007 at 07:15 PM

TW

“ Dear Betty, Mike, and Family...I am sorry for your loss....Boley was truly a wonderful man who so many looked up to and respected because of the way he lived and conducted his life . I feel fortunate to have been able to workwith him over the past few years....he touched many peoples lives in a very good way.

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**Tracy Williams** - January 17, 2007 at 03:22 PM

WJ

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family in this difficult time.

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**Walter H. Bennett, Jr.** - January 17, 2007 at 02:09 PM

WJ

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family in this difficult time.

*Walter Bennett*

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**Walter H. Bennett, Jr.** - January 17, 2007 at 02:08 PM

BG

“ Mike-- So sorry about the loss of your wonderful father. He will always be remembered with love and respect by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Your friend,  
Bruce

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**Bruce C. Green** - January 17, 2007 at 11:59 AM

JA

“ We send our deepest sympathies. Boley was a good friend and will be greatly missed.

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**Jack & Annette Atkins** - January 17, 2007 at 11:12 AM

PM

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Boley will be missed by many people.

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**Pam Mackey** - January 17, 2007 at 11:10 AM

TM

“ Betty, Gayle and Mike, Darrell and I were blessed to have been apart of your lives here at the lake. If it would not have been for Boley, we would not be here now. We will always remember all the laughter, joy and loving times that we all shared at Pt. Venture. His smile and forever kindness will be truly missed. Darrell and I love you all dearly and you are in our prayers.

*Love always, Darrell and Lynn*

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**The McAnelly's** - January 16, 2007 at 11:19 PM

CM

“ Gayle,  
I have you in my heart today. I know what an outstanding caregiver you have been for your family in the past few years. Although I have never met your father, I know what an amazing person he must have been simply because he gave the world you! He must have been a treasure, because you certainly are.

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**Charmion Mohning** - January 16, 2007 at 01:37 PM

DJ

“ Gayle,

*Please let your family know how sorry I am by the passing of your dad. Even though I didn't know him, some of him was bound to rub off on you. If he was as kind, full of spark and modeled integrity like you, I think I knew him. Please let his memory bring you joy and his great traits be his legacy. Love you,  
Debbie Jackson*

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**Debbie Jackson** - January 16, 2007 at 01:14 PM

DS

“ Dear Betty, Gayle, and Mike,  
*I am so sorry to hear about Boley. He was a remarkable man with a radiant smile! I know that he will be greatly missed! May God ease your pain and bless you at this time. Debi*

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**Debi Devine Schneider** - January 16, 2007 at 12:35 PM

DB

“ *Our sympathies are extended to the O'Bannon family. Boley was a wonderful person.*

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**Dan & Donna Beto** - January 15, 2007 at 06:54 PM

KC

“ *Betty, Mike and Gayle: My prayers are with all of you at this time. I love you all and I loved Boley. The eight years that I worked with you was a wonderful experience. Boley was a kind and patient man whom I admired and respected very much. Love always, Kay*

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**Kay Haas Henry Cox** - January 15, 2007 at 06:43 PM

LF

“ Dear Betty, Mike & Gail,

*We all loved Boley. He will surely be missed. May God bless you and ease your pain. He is in a better place now and will watch over you and your family.*

*take care,*

*Laura & Ricky Floyd*

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**Laura Floyd** - January 15, 2007 at 05:27 PM

JS

“ *Boley O'Bannon's life was an inspiration to me. Boley was a man that any man could admire. I will surely miss him.*

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**Joe M. Henry, Sr.** - January 15, 2007 at 12:21 PM

SH

“ Dear Betty, Gayle, & Mike,  
*Boley was bigger than life in every way imaginable! When I think of the dads we grew up with, they were a strong bunch, indeed -- and Boley had such a big personality to match his big frame that I had to overcome a little bit of an intimidation factor at first. Like I said, BIGGER THAN LIFE!*

*Let's see . . . what do I remember about the O'Bannon family? Gayle was the Tom Sawyer of our class -- pulling tricks, laughing with gusto, taking her stand. My first day of school in Mrs. Chandler's 3rd grade class was cold and rainy, and I was so scared I refused to pull my hood down when we went to assembly only minutes after I checked into the class. Gayle was sitting behind me, and kept pulling down my hood and tee-heeing. I kept pulling it back up and turning red as a beet. She pulled it back down, and B'rer Rabbit ME), she don't say nothin! She was mute!:-). When I met Boley, I knew where Gayle got her spunk!*

*Betty, you made a forever impression on me, as on all of us, through the most insecure times of our lives --6th through 8th grades. You definitely knew how to get and keep my attention! Sometimes I think that, if challenged, I could still tell you the creator of volleyball and even the year! When I met Boley, I got the full picture of you as a couple and parents, and it really completed it for me. As for Mike, he is so much of his dad that, when I see him now, I think I'm seeing Boley! Back then, he was just a VERY irritating little brother.*

*So there you have it . . . Boley permeating every moment of my life with the O-Bannons, whether in the room or just in the genes . . . and leaving a lovely mark on my memories of time in Huntsville. I'll be holding all of you in my prayers, and thanking God for such families as yours! Love you, Sandra*

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**Sandra McCollum Hogan** - January 15, 2007 at 11:00 AM

JF

“ Aunt Betty, Gayle and Mike,

*I am so very sorry to hear about Uncle Boley, Yall have been in Our Thoughts and Prayers since we found out he was ill. Please know I am there in thoughts and my Prayers are with you all through this time. I love you all very much and I loved Uncle Boley. If there is anything i can do please let me know....Always thinking of you and Keeping you All in my Thoughts and Prayers.....*

*Jayne and Family*

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**Jayne Rainer-Alverson and family** - January 14, 2007 at 10:54 PM

EO

“ Dear Betty, Mike & Family,

*We are sorry to hear of the death of your love one. We have fond memories of him when he played football at SHSU and the radio announcer referred to him as "Milk Man." You are in our prayers and thoughts.*

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**Edward & Hattye Owens** - January 14, 2007 at 03:14 PM

SW

“ Dear Betty and family,

*My prayers are with you during this difficult time of loss. Very special memories remain to this day of my school days in Huntsville and time spent with you. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication.*

*May loving memories ease your loss and bring you comfort.*

*Sincerely,*

*Sue Anderson Weaver*

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**Sue Anderson Weaver** - January 13, 2007 at 08:42 PM

MC

“ *Gayle and Mike- I am so sorry to hear about your dad. My thoughts and prayers are with you-Mary Beth Kaltwasser Cook*

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**mary beth kaltwasser cook** - January 13, 2007 at 04:48 PM

NJ

“ *We are so sorry for your loss! You all are in our thoughts and prayers. Norma Dell and Jerry D. Jones of Lovelady.*

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**Norma Dell & Jerry D. Jones** - January 12, 2007 at 07:08 PM