



Dr. David C. Townsend

April 5, 1927 - March 23, 2016

OBITUARY: DAVID C. TOWNSEND

David Caldow Townsend, 88, died March 23, 2016, at home in the Elkins Lake community of Huntsville, Texas, where he has lived for over 30 years. He was born April 5, 1927 in Atlantic, Iowa to Jessie Caldow (1897-1999) and Bruce Townsend (1897-1997).

He graduated from Clinton (Iowa) High School in 1944 and immediately enlisted in the U.S. Navy for service during the last year of World War II. This duty involved participation in the Navy's ROTC programs at Ohio Wesleyan University and the University of Virginia. After his military discharge in 1946, he earned three collegiate degrees: B.A. in economics from Cornell College (Mt. Vernon, Iowa) in 1948; M.A. in economics from the University of Michigan in 1949; and Ph.D. in economics from Louisiana State University in 1953.

His fifty years of collegiate teaching began with three years as an instructor at LSU, where he met his wife, Dorothy Louise Trichel. He spent two years as assistant professor at the University of Houston and three and one-half years as economics department head at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. Dr. Townsend was an associate professor of finance at The University of Texas in Austin for four and a half years. He was recognized there for starting the Honors Business Program in the College of Business.

From 1963 through 1982, he served as professor and Dean of the College of Business at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana. Dean Townsend was awarded the honorary title of dean emeritus in 1983, upon his retirement from Northwestern. He finished his academic teaching career by spending the next eighteen years as professor of economics and international business at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas.

Within this half century academic career were two annual sabbaticals. During John Kennedy's short presidency, Dr. Townsend spent a year in Washington D.C. as a visiting economist with the Federal Reserve Board of Governors (1961-62). Then, in 1978-79, a second sabbatical year involved teaching graduate courses in economics on U.S. Air Force bases in Germany, England and Spain.

Civic service assignments included years in the mid-1960s with the Rotary Club of Natchitoches, La. as president, vice president, program chairman, and as secretary-treasurer. He served two three-year terms in the mid-1970s as an elected member of the Board of Trustees of the Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana. And after teaching his last classes at Sam Houston State University in 2002, Townsend served five years as a volunteer income tax preparer for the Huntsville chapter of AARP.

David's interests were diverse. He was an avid golfer and tennis player, a great dancer, enjoyed bridge and listening to classical music, traveled extensively, and loved socializing with friends. He was a long-time patron of symphony and opera. And he was especially pleased to have finally gained 4 grandsons late in life, who gave him great joy.

After retirement, Dr. Townsend continued to read the Wall Street Journal daily and stayed current with the day's economic, political and financial news and events. He was an excellent correspondent throughout his life, and since

retiring from SHSU, he had a wide circulation of devotees to his “snail mail blogs”, where he wrote about financial and economic topics and where he expounded on answers to the many questions his friends had for him, while sipping a cold one after a round of golf.

In addition to his parents, Dr. Townsend is predeceased by his sister Margaret Townsend Tesch, and his son David Bruce (1954-1956). He is survived by his wife of almost 65 years, Dorothy Trichel, who he married on June 4, 1951, two days after her graduation from LSU. He is also survived by three children—Teresa Wright of Memphis (Peter), Mary Ross of Houston (Mike), and James Townsend of Bend, Oregon (Julie)—and four grandchildren—Brian, Benjamin and Christopher Ross, and Oliver Townsend, who all knew him affectionately as “Papa”.

The family would especially like to thank David’s loving caregivers—Marie Williams, Janice Waldrip and Ada Larry, as well as his wonderful neighbors and friends.

Visitation is scheduled for Wednesday, 3/30/16 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home, and a funeral service is scheduled for Thursday, 3/31/16 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Huntsville. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials may be sent to St. Thomas Catholic Church, 1323 16th Street, Huntsville, TX 77340, or a charity of your choice.

Full obituary may be viewed and memorial condolences made to the family at www.shmfh.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 30. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville
1700 Normal Park Dr.
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 291-7300
belinda@shmfmh.com

Rosary

MAR 30. 7:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville
1700 Normal Park Dr.
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 291-7300
belinda@shmfmh.com

Tribute Wall

BG

“ *RIP Dr Townsend! I am happy he had a full life. My last semester at SHSU in spring of 1989 it took me a few weeks to realize his brilliance as he disguised it with such a humble approach. Not trying to slight any other professors, the value of my Sam degree is focused to this day on this man. I have often wondered what he would have had to say on “Quantitative Easing “ and then “Quantitative Tightening “but I believe I already know that answer. The Townsend family should be so proud to know how he walked the walk....*

Brian Gleich - May 22, 2024 at 05:55 PM



“ *Dr. David C. Townsend*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM

 Andrea Heiland

“ *Mrs. Townsend and Family,*

Dr. Townsend profoundly impacted my life, as one of my favorite professors. Whenever I told friends about him - which was often - I said "I hardly ever know what he was talking about during class, but at the end of the semester, I found that I had learned more than in any other course." He was so energetic, so passionate, and I enjoyed him tremendously. Love and hugs to you all.

Class of '92.

Andrea Heiland - April 06, 2016 at 01:21 PM

RD

“ Mrs. Townsend and Family, My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this time. I thoroughly enjoyed his classes while at Sam and being able to tell each other stories about those days while at Elkins will truly be memorable. Thank you both and God Bless.
Class of '91

Rusty Denner - March 30, 2016 at 12:08 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. David C. Townsend.



March 29, 2016 at 06:42 PM

CB

“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Cheryl Bumpass - March 29, 2016 at 05:24 PM

WP

“ With Love, The Goddess' - Cathy, Karen, Kristie, Lael, Patsy purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dr. David C. Townsend.



With Love, The Goddess' - Cathy, Karen, Kristie, Lael, Patsy -
March 29, 2016 at 02:32 PM

JR

“ Our deepest condolences to the Townsend family. David was a great man, his passing will be felt by the many lives he touched. May you all gain peace with time and the many memories you share. Love, Jim, Brenda, Matthew, Elizabeth, and Megan Ross

Jim Ross - March 28, 2016 at 08:54 AM

BM

“ Dot, Colleen and I are in France visiting our daughter and her husband, so will not be able to attend visitation or service. We want you to know our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Bobby and Colleen Marks

B. K. Marks - March 27, 2016 at 11:07 AM

LS

“ Deep condolences to the Townsend family. My husband and I both had Dr Townsend as our Economics & International Business professor at Sam. His quirky and wonderful approach to teaching the subject he loved so much greatly impacted us both. Dr Townsend's class helped guide us both toward our major. For both of us, Dr Townsend's passionate but pragmatic teaching ignited a love of world events and international business that helped propel us into both working for multinational companies and, during some of that tenure, living in Europe for 8 years. His urging us to follow our curiosity and critically think and understand how world events affect everyone led us both to become better world citizens, a learning we have now passed on to our kids who are much more internationally savvy than many adults. Thank you, Dr Townsend. May you rest in peace.

Linda (Coulter) and Paul Szymanski, Class of 1992

linda szymanski - March 26, 2016 at 02:45 PM

BR

“ Dorothy. I will always remember David saying "we will have to quit meeting like this". He said that every time he saw me. I will miss his smiling face. God bless you and your family during these days to come. Love. Beckie Riddell

Beckie Riddell - March 26, 2016 at 08:22 AM

DW

“ My love to you Dorothy and to your precious children and grandchildren. David was a class act; he cherished his family, was a true gentleman and a wealth of knowledge that I always admired. God has blessed me for putting both of you in my path. I pray that God will wrap his arms around you and help you find comfort in the days to come. Love Darla

Darla Wilkerson - March 25, 2016 at 12:09 PM

DP

“ Dorothy:
You don't know me but I work "Hospitality" at the 10:45AM Sunday Mass and have met you and David many times as you entered through the side door. David is a very, very nice man and both you and David were always very gracious to Mary and I. I am so very sorry to hear of David's passing. No doubt he will be greatly missed. We will pray for him and for you in the hope that God's Blessings will rain down on you both.
David Prett.

David Prett Prett - March 25, 2016 at 11:32 AM

AS

“ I am shedding tears of sorrow for you and for so many others here at Elkins. You two brought so much love and joy to all you met. I do hope there is a good bridge game going "up there" so David and my Kelley can play another hand together. Love to all the family, Anne Sigler

Anne W. Sigler - March 25, 2016 at 11:06 AM