



Dr. James Byron Bexley

January 11, 1934 - October 18, 2019

James “Jim” Byron Bexley, 85, beloved husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, Chairholder Smith-Hutson Endowed Chair of Banking and Distinguished Professor of Finance at Sam Houston State University went to heaven on Friday, October 18, 2019.

Jim was born in Waco, Texas on January 11, 1934. He graduated from Temple High School in 1952, attended The University of Texas at Austin on a football and baseball scholarship and then went on to serve his country in the Army as an Officer. He was passionate about learning and continued his education, receiving his undergraduate degree, law degree, masters degree, and doctorate degree.

Jim was married to the love of his life, Elsie Mae Bexley, for 64 wonderful years. He was truly “one of a kind” and made an impact throughout his career and in the community. Passionate about banking and education, he served as the Smith-Hutson Endowed Chair of Banking for 24 years at Sam Houston State University. He was honored to receive the Texas State University System Regents’ Professor Award. As the faculty athletic representative for Sam Houston State University, he enjoyed serving and cheering on the Bearkats. With over 35 years of experience in the banking industry, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from The Texas Bankers Association. He was also honored to serve on Federal Reserve Bank eleventh

district Board of Directors. During his tenure, he served on both the executive and audit committees. His knowledge and expertise were used to consult for banks all over the United States as well as the largest private bank in China and a bank in Malawi, Africa. He served as a Deacon and taught Sunday School at University Heights Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Elsie. Two Children Byron Bexley (Debbie) and Tammie Risica (Tony); eight grandchildren Kristin McWilliams (Justin), Amy Reardon (Kevin), Tyler Bexley (Louise), Kasey Struzyk (Ryan), Brooke Rock (Preston), Justin Bexley (Laura), Jamison Bexley (Sereena) and Trevor Risica; 13 great-grandchildren; and many friends and colleagues.

He was preceded in death by his mother Rubye Bexley and father Joe Bexley.

Visitation will be held at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home on Tuesday, October 22, 2019 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm and a Celebration of Life will take place at 10:00 am on Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at University Heights Baptist Church in Huntsville, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be designated to the James B. and Elsie M. Bexley Banking/Finance Scholarship Fund.

Cemetery Details

Mayes Addition of Oakwood Cemetery

800 Martin Luther King BLVD.
Huntsville, TX 77320

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **22**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Service

OCT **23**. 10:00 AM (CT)

University Heights Baptist Church of Huntsville
2400 Sycamore Avenue
Huntsville, TX

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. James Byron Bexley*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Elsie*

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your entire family. He probably didn't know it, but he was the big brother I never had. He is 11 year older than me. I remember he would sneak me into the movie theater in Temple where he was the usher on a Saturday morning. As an adult, he helped me find a job in Houston many years ago. My regret is that we didn't stay in touch these past few years. Our grandson, Truman, may be considering a football preferred walk he just received from Sam Houston. Elsie, just know that you have been in our thoughts. Bill and Joan Bexley

Bill and Joan Bexley - November 18, 2019 at 11:11 AM



“ *Your friends at BKD, LLP purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Dr. James Byron Bexley.*



Your friends at BKD, LLP - October 22, 2019 at 04:10 PM

DS

“ My thoughts and prayers are with Elsie and the entire Bexley family during this difficult time. Dr. Bexley was a dear friend and mentor to me for many years and I will miss him terribly. He had such an impact on everyone he met and made those around him always feel welcome and appreciated. He was a great husband, father and leader and his memory will live on through all those he touched.

Debbie Scanlon - October 22, 2019 at 03:58 PM

MG

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the Bexley family. I was a sophomore at SHSU when Dr. Bexley became the Smith-Hutson Endowed Chair of Banking and I had the opportunity to take several of his classes my junior and senior year. Dr. Bexley is the reason why I decided to go into Banking and tomorrow I will be celebrating 20 years at my bank. He was an amazing professor and was always very generous with his time. I visited with him several times my senior year, he was a wonderful mentor and he didn't hesitate to say yes when I asked if I could use him for a reference. Dr. Bexley has touched and influenced so many lives in the banking and teaching community and we will continue to honor him and his legacy. Heaven has gained a very special angel, Dr. Bexley will be missed but never forgotten.

Michelle (Williams) Guzman - October 22, 2019 at 10:10 AM

VR

“ My thoughts and prayers are with Elsie, Byron, Tammie and the rest of the family as they deal with the loss of a wonderful man. Dr. Bexley was my mentor, colleague, friend and the man I most admired. I've never known anyone who gave so much to so many and never expected anything in return except the joy that it brought him. He was an extraordinary man and he will be deeply missed.

Valerie “Pepper” Richards - October 21, 2019 at 11:52 PM

VS

“ *Elsie,*

Judy and I extend our sincere condolences to you and the entire Bexley family. It was a great pleasure working with Jim in the COBA. We will miss him and we will keep you and your family in our prayers.

Vic & Judy Sower

Vic Sower - October 21, 2019 at 08:50 PM

KS

“ *Karen Sherrill purchased the Simply Elegant Spat hiphyllum for the family of Dr. James Byron Bexley.*



Karen Sherrill - October 21, 2019 at 05:37 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. James Byron Bexley.*



October 21, 2019 at 05:12 PM



“ *Elsie & family,*

Dr. Bexley was a sweet, smart, kind, wonderful man. He really loved my mom, my brother Nick, my stepdad Mitchell and me. He recommended me for my first management position at Klein Bank back in 2003. He encouraged me to minor in banking when the program first began, and to get my MBA after that. Every time I saw him he would give me a hug and kiss. He was like family to us. Elsie, I am sorry for your loss but find comfort knowing he lived such a remarkable life and was married to a woman he loved so much. I told my mom not to be sad because I think Dr. Bexley would be happy and proud looking back at his life and all the people that he helped in the banking industry and in general. I know several people whose lives he impacted greatly. He will be missed.

With love,

Abby (Beaty) Purcell

Abby Purcell - October 21, 2019 at 01:56 PM

CD

“ It was May of 2009 when I met Dr. Bexley. I was 23 years old, a 2x college drop out and had a couple bucks to my name. As a last ditch effort, I decided to try college again. I had no idea what I was going to major in or what I was going to do - I just wanted to do to college. Through a mutual friend, I met Dr. Bexley. He spoke to me about his banking program and it sounded great. I had zero experience in banking but I thought I would give it a shot. He gave me a pat on the back and encouraged me to just try it. After he helped me get in to SHSU, I studied hard and aced every class of his. Every class I took, I gave it my all. 4 years later, he caught me in the hallway to congratulate me on my graduation. He shook my hand, winked and said, "I knew you could do it." I nearly broke down right there. He believed in me when I literally had nobody. Today, I enjoy a fruitful, successful banking career because of this man gave me a chance. I will remember Dr. Bexley for the rest of my life and be eternally thankful for the faith he had in me, the knowledge he shared, and the opportunity that he provided me. It will never be taken for granted.

CDF - October 21, 2019 at 01:28 PM

MC

“ McAllen Country Club purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. James Byron Bexley.



McAllen Country Club - October 21, 2019 at 11:55 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. James Byron Bexley.*



October 21, 2019 at 10:54 AM



“ *Christine Millington lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Byron Bexley*



Christine Millington - October 20, 2019 at 11:42 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. James Byron Bexley.*



October 20, 2019 at 11:28 AM



“ *M. Hyvl sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. James Byron Bexley*



M. Hyvl - October 18, 2019 at 08:26 PM