



## James B. Marks, Sr.

March 17, 1925 - August 15, 2009

Dr. James B. Marks, Sr. of Huntsville passed away peacefully on Wednesday morning, August 12, 2009 at TownCreek Retirement Center. He was 84 years old. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Nancy Norman Marks, and his parents, James A. Marks and Louise Marks Eagan. He is survived by his children, daughter Susan Marks McDermott of Houston, son and daughter-in-law James B. Marks, Jr. and Diane Montgomery Marks of Nashville, Tennessee, and daughter Elizabeth Marks LeMay, of Tomball. He also leaves behind four grandchildren, Christopher and Sarah McDermott and Grace and Sophia LeMay. Dr. Marks was born in Denver, Colorado on March 17, 1925. He spent a good portion of his childhood years in Atlanta, Georgia but considered Caldwell, Texas his home. He will be buried there. He attended Texas A&M University until he volunteered to serve in the Army Air Corps in April, 1943. During his service in World War II, he was a Control Tower Operator. Dr. Marks went on to study music at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, completing both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in music. He received his Doctor of Philosophy in Music Theory and Composition from Indiana University in 1969. His teaching positions included West Virginia University, where he met and married his wife; Shenandoah Conservatory of Music in Dayton, Virginia; and Tennessee Polytechnic Institute. His final teaching position was at Sam Houston State University, where he served as the Head of the Music Theory Department and retired in 1998 after thirty-three years of service. Dr. Marks's influence is reflected in the lives of numerous

students of music throughout his teaching career. He possessed an innate and subtle sense of humor, combined with an uncanny ability to reach so many young minds. He will greatly be missed by all, especially his children. A memorial service will be held at Faith Lutheran Church in Huntsville on Saturday, August 15, at 1:00 PM. The family will receive visitors immediately following the service. Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at [www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *James B. Marks, Sr.*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Dr. Marks was a nice man.*

**The brothers of the Beta Delta chapter o** - February 09, 2022 at 12:10 PM



“ *I was fortunate to be a student of Dr. Marks at SHSU. I came back to Mexico in 1995, but I always remember him with gratitude.*

**Eliud Nevarez** - September 20, 2012 at 06:55 PM



“ *Dear Marks Family,  
I was an CNA over at TownCreek, and just heard about your father. He was such a sweet and kind man. Im very grateful that I got meet and help him while he was there, and he will greatly be missed!!!  
Your family is in my prayers through this time.*

**Kimberly Mitchell** - August 16, 2009 at 06:04 PM



“ *Jimmy, Susan and Elizabeth, I was sorry to hear about the loss of your father. I fondly remember many voice lessons at your house and your dads sense of humor. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. karen*

**Karen Krumm Zalesak** - August 15, 2009 at 09:57 AM

FS

“ Susan, Jimmy and Elizabeth, I have such wonderful memories of both your mother and father and of time spent at your house spending the night, taking piano lessons, and of your dad warning us that if we didn't leave your bunny alone he wouldn't be responsible if it decided to bite us. I am so sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Frances Robinson Snipes** - August 14, 2009 at 10:23 PM

JS

“ Susan, Jimmy and Elizabeth...  
I want you to know that I grieve with you. Your dad was a friend to me as well as my faculty advisor while I was in the music honors program at SHSU. It was his friendship and encouragement that I remember the most. He was one of the reasons I started my career in band and have gone through more than 30 years as a band director in Huntsville ISD and Willis ISD. Even after graduating from SHSU your dad was a great supporter as you were coming through the band program in Huntsville. He was a truly remarkable teacher, mentor and friend.

*My prayers are with you and your families in this most difficult time.  
God Bless You as God blesses your Mom and Dad.*

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**Jimmy L Smith** - August 14, 2009 at 08:51 PM

JS

“ Dear Marks Family,

*Dr. Marks was one of my first teachers at SHSU in 1982 and later my faculty advisor for Phi Mu Alpha. He was a very kind man and always made me laugh. He reminded me a little bit of the famous Groucho Marx. I remember our conversations of his Army Air Corps days and his time at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. I think of him often. Please accept my condolences.*

*Respectfully,  
Jeffrey A. Swope*

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**Jeff Swope** - August 14, 2009 at 01:03 PM

KC

“ Dear Susan, Jimmy, and Elizabeth,

*Mother, Kelly and I are saddened to hear of the loss of your father. I remember so many times at your house, talking with your folks... Your dad's humor and affection for everyone around him will be missed by many, but most especially by each of you.*

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**Kay Crews** - August 14, 2009 at 12:29 PM

CS

“ Elizabeth, Jimmy and Susan: I am so sorry for your loss. Whether it was celebrating his birthday on the back deck or talking about analyzing French music (particularly Ravel and Debussy), he was such a grand teacher of many and a fantastic colleague. I got to office across the hallway from Jim, Newton Strandberg and Fisher Tull. What a hall of fame those guys were for me. Jim was so modest about his abilities as a fine horn performer, a terrific composer, an outstanding professor and a remarkable friend to all. As you know, the level of integrity with which Jim lived his life was a model for others. My 30 years at SHSU were better because of Jim. Much love to all of you. We will see you on Saturday. Carol Smith

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**Carol Smith** - August 13, 2009 at 10:05 PM

SM

“ Elizabeth and all of the Marks Family, please accept my most heartfelt condolences. My first class as a graduate student was with Dr. Marks and he was a warm and brilliant teacher. I will never forget his many insights on music and I feel very privileged to have known him as my professor, and later as his friend and publisher. My thoughts are with all of you in his family.

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**Steve Matchett** - August 13, 2009 at 07:50 PM

AA

“ Jimmy, Susan and Elizabeth; I remember your Dad for his easy smile and gracious attitude. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your families.

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**Andy Allen** - August 13, 2009 at 02:25 PM

RF

“ Elizabeth and the rest of the immediate Marks family please except my deepest condolences. My prayers are with you all during this time. In 1992 Dr. Marks was my very first professor in college that I ever experienced - 8 AM Freshman Theory and I am so honored had the experience of being in one of his classes.

*What an incredible professor and man ... he will be deeply missed.*

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**Ricky Fritzsching** - August 13, 2009 at 01:34 PM

TF

“ Susan, Jimmy and Elizabeth, the last time I saw your dad was at the Krumm's, shortly after the loss of your mom. He was so lost without her. The best years that I remember are the years your mom was organist at church. Susan and Jimmy were young and Elizabeth was greatly anticipated. When we last saw your dad, he spoke so highly of his children. He was so glad that Elizabeth was helping to see to his needs. We will always remember your family with fondness. I would love to see all of you again sometime. You are in our hearts and prayers as your parents are together again.

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**Trudy and J H Fuchs** - August 13, 2009 at 01:12 PM

PR

“ Jimmy, Susan and Elizabeth: My thoughts and prayers are with you during this time.

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**Peggy Carrera de la Rosa** - August 13, 2009 at 10:39 AM

HW

“ Dr. Marks was truly a remarkable man. He was so much more than just a professor. During my time at SHSU, I had the privilege of having him as a teacher as well as faculty advisor for Phi Mu Alpha. His guidance was always well thought out and very helpful. He touched so many lives and will be remembered for the kind, generous man that he was.

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**Howard Williams** - August 13, 2009 at 10:21 AM

JL

“ My thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this difficult time. Dr. Marks was my very first theory professor. He gave me a wonderful foundation! He will be greatly missed!

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**Jennifer Winter Levanduski** - August 13, 2009 at 08:50 AM

RM

“ Dr Marks always had a kind word and a sharp witt. He cared deeply about the success of his students and their endeavors. There are generations of musicians that will owe their craft to a quiet man of music named Jim Marks. He will be missed and our pryers are with Elizabeth, Jimmy and their families.

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**Ray and Angela Morrow** - August 12, 2009 at 10:46 PM

SG

“ Susan, Jimmy, Diane, Chris, Sarah, Grace, Sophia, and dear, dear Elizabeth. Your father's legacy lives on through generations of musicians in this state. His smile was as genuine as the twinkle in his eye. His humor made him so very endearing, and the love he had for all of you, but especially for your mother spoke volumes of his heart and the man he was every single day. SHSU music alum will always be indebted to him.-  
Much love and gratitude for welcoming me into your family, Sylvia

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**Sylvia Garza** - August 12, 2009 at 10:45 PM

SM

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the Marks family today. Dr. Marks was a brilliant musician and a great teacher. I was blessed to have been one of his students.

We know that today he will dance once again with his sweet wife in the presence of our heavenly father.

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**Scott & Tammy McMahon** - August 12, 2009 at 09:40 PM

GG

“ Dani and I have many fond memories of Dr. Marks and his wonderful family. Please accept our thoughts and prayers in this difficult time.

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**Greg and Dani Gathright** - August 12, 2009 at 05:41 PM