



Jerry Anderson Sandel

May 10, 1937 - June 4, 2025

In Loving Memory of Jerry Sandel

May 10, 1937 – June 4, 2025

Jerry Anderson Sandel, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, public servant, and friend, passed away peacefully on June 4, 2025, at the age of 88.

He was born in Terrell, Texas, on May 10, 1937, to Herbert Henderson “Tubby” Sandel, and Nuna Mae Anderson Sandel. He was raised in the Loma community west of Huntsville. He graduated from Huntsville High School in 1955 and from Sam Houston State University in 1959. While at SHSU, he was a proud member of the Esquires (later Delta Tau Delta). And it was at Sam Houston that he met the love of his life, June Lea “Sam” Shaw, whom he married on October 31, 1959.

He later attended South Texas College of Law, where he earned his Juris Doctorate in 1968. After his father's death in 1969, Jerry, Sam, and their two children moved back to Huntsville from Houston. In 1972, he was appointed district attorney of what was at that time a five-county district. On July 24, 1974, three inmates laid siege to the education/library building of the Walls Unit in Huntsville, thrusting our community into the national spotlight. Jerry was a young DA, but with the help of first assistant, Don Kraemer, and investigator, Walt Pinegar, they skillfully navigated the high-profile prosecution amid intense public and media scrutiny.

In 1980 to 1981, he served as judge of the Walker County Court at Law, and from 1983 to 2002, he served as district judge of the 278th Judicial District Court. On the bench, he was known for his sense of fairness and his ability to temper law with empathy. He had a reputation for treating all who appeared before him with patience, respect, and kindness. After he fully retired as a senior district judge, he tried his hand at representing criminal defendants. He was often seen visiting his clients at the Walker County jail with his assistant, Little Jill Clements, at his side.

To know Jerry was to know a man with a heart as big as Texas. His laugh could fill a room, and his friendships were deep and enduring. He was a man of humility, warmth, and humor—quick to listen, slow to judge, and always generous with his time and wisdom. Christ’s love was evident in him, and it was a blessing to all. Romans 12:18 says, “If possible, as far as it depends on you, live peaceably with everyone,” and that is how he lived.

Judge Sandel is survived by his beloved wife and his biggest cheerleader, June “Sam” Sandel; his children, Joel Sandel, Jill Sandel Driscoll, and Jimbo Driscoll; and his adored grandchildren, Allison Driscoll, Luke Driscoll, and James Driscoll. He is also survived by his devoted brother, Joe Sandel, and sister-in-law, Winnie Sandel. Additionally, he leaves Alejandrina Martinez and “Baby Girl” Estefenia Martinez who loved him and took the very best care of him, as well as Lizzie Tripp who provided her constant support and love to him; and, of course, his dear Esquire/Delt brothers, all of his nieces, his nephew, extended family, friends, and former colleagues who will remember him always with great affection and respect. He is preceded in death by his parents, Tubby and Nuna Mae, and his precious sister, Betty Ann Sandel Bautsch.

The family will receive friends and loved ones at 4:00 PM on Monday, June 16, 2025, at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville and services will begin at 5:00 PM. A reception will follow the services, and Jerry will be laid to rest at Buck Foster Cemetery with a sunset graveside service. Memorial condolences may be made to the family at www.shmfh.com.

It was no secret that Jerry Sandel loved Sam Houston State University. He was a huge fan of Bearkat athletics and attended as many football, basketball, and baseball games as possible. To honor Jerry's memory, donations may be made to the Bearkats Champions Fund at the following link:

https://secure.touchnet.com/C21329_ustores/web/store_main.jsp?STOREID=192&SINGLESTORE=true

The services will be live streamed at the following link, starting approximately 10 minutes prior to the service time: <https://client.tribucast.com/tcid/a25062468648146>

Cemetery Details

Buck Foster Cemetery

Morgan Rd
Huntsville, TX 77320

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 16. 4:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville
1700 Normal Park Dr.
Huntsville, TX 77340

Funeral services

JUN 16. 5:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville
1700 Normal Park Dr.
Huntsville, TX 77340

Reception following service

JUN 16. 6:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Community Room
1700 Normal Park Dr.
Huntsville, TX 77340
admin@shmfmh.com

Sunset Burial

JUN 16. 8:30 PM (CT)

Buck Foster Cemetery
Morgan Rd
Huntsville, TX 77320

Tribute Wall



“ *Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Jerry Anderson Sandel*



Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - June 13, 2025 at 02:17 PM

PA

“ *You will be missed very much. He married me [Paula Duke) to Harold Akin) in 1998. We had our wedding at their home. Jerry & his wife Sam did our wedding for us. I always loved you Jerry cause you were always kind to me. You will be missed greatly.*

Paula (Duke) Akin - June 17, 2025 at 09:19 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jerry Anderson Sandel.*



June 16, 2025 at 12:49 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jerry Anderson Sandel.*

June 16, 2025 at 12:49 PM

CB

“ Deepest condolences to Sam, Joel, Jill and their family. My dad once told me a story. He was at Elkins talking to a friend and Judge Sandel was across the room surrounded by a gathering of friends. The friend asked my dad, "Why does everybody like Sandel so much?" My dad said, "Because Sandel likes everybody." Judge Sandel taught us how to "love thy neighbor." I have carried this indirect life lesson from Judge Sandel with me ever since. May he rest in peace.

Clif Baker - June 16, 2025 at 12:25 PM

FF

“ From The Ussery & Felder families. purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Jerry Anderson Sandel.



From The Ussery & Felder families. - June 14, 2025 at 02:53 PM

FH

“ From, Nancy and Michael Huffman planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jerry Anderson Sandel.

From, Nancy and Michael Huffman - June 13, 2025 at 08:21 PM

FH

“ From, Nancy and Michael Huffman purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Jerry Anderson Sandel.



From, Nancy and Michael Huffman - June 13, 2025 at 08:21 PM

FF

“ From The Linzer Family purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Jerry Anderson Sandel.



From The Linzer Family - June 13, 2025 at 06:09 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jerry Anderson Sandel.

June 13, 2025 at 02:59 PM



“ Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Jerry Anderson Sandel.



June 13, 2025 at 02:59 PM

WS

“ Will and Regina Schlotter planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jerry Anderson Sandel.

Will and Regina Schlotter - June 12, 2025 at 07:19 PM

WS

“ Will and Regina Schlotter purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Jerry Anderson Sandel.



Will and Regina Schlotter - June 12, 2025 at 07:19 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Jerry Anderson Sandel.



June 11, 2025 at 01:43 PM

LR

“ Lewis and Molly Reavis purchased the Meat & Cheese Wooden Gift Crate for the family of Jerry Anderson Sandel.



Lewis and Molly Reavis - June 10, 2025 at 04:58 PM

MB

“ Michelle B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jerry Anderson Sandel.

Michelle B. - June 10, 2025 at 04:29 PM

DP

“ *The Robinson girls send our prayers to the entire family. May God give you peace and rest. Carol and Richard Byrd, Jan and Tom Rogers, Donna and Walter Paschall and Mary and Nathan Roe.*



Donna Paschall - June 10, 2025 at 04:13 PM

BB

“ *Well it's been about 47 years ago or so now, Jerry and I were going head to head in a golf match for the championship of our flight. I remember distinctly how enjoyable the day was. The weather was good, the company was good, and I played pretty good. But Jerry was so nice. He complemented me often, and yet downplayed his own achievements. At the end of the match I felt so good about myself. But make no mistake, Jerry kicked my butt good, lol. It wasn't even close, That's the way he was. Everybody at Elkin's -- and I mean EVERYBODY -- loved them some Jerry Sandel!!*

Blanton Britt - June 10, 2025 at 03:27 PM

RB

“ *He helped me become a better lawyer as i tried cases in his courts. Firm, but always clear. Prayers for his family.*
Roy D. Brantley

Roy D Brantley - June 10, 2025 at 09:45 AM

MF

“ *Lifting up the family and friends of Jerry Sandel for comfort, strength, and healing from our Lord Jesus Christ. Jerry was a friend that I will never forget. We spent time talking about work, family, friends, community and our Lord. Jerry will be missed by our community for many reasons, but we will see him again in heaven.*



Marvin Hyvl & Family - June 09, 2025 at 11:12 AM

BG

“ *Deepest condolences to your family for the loss of Jerry. He was a great jurist and a credit to the legal profession. More importantly, he was a most decent and compassionate human being. We will all greatly miss him.*
Bruce Green

Bruce C. Green - June 08, 2025 at 04:14 PM

BL

“ *I'm so sorry that Jerry has passed. He always showed me the utmost kindness and respect and was a friend to so many. He brightened the spirits of all in his company and was a model for all to follow.*

Bobby Lane - June 07, 2025 at 12:41 PM

DB

“ *I was saddened to learn that my good friend Jerry Sandel passed away. Much of his life was devoted to serving his fellow man. I take comfort in the knowledge that he is no longer suffering and that he is now enjoying the company of his Maker.*

Dan Beto - June 07, 2025 at 07:54 AM