



Joel Bass

April 26, 1937 - December 5, 2007

Joel Eugene Bass was born April 26, 1937, in Kirbyville, Texas to Charles Bernard and Doris Louise Bass. He passed away on December 2, 2007 following a fifteen-year battle with leukemia. After retirement from teaching 35 years at Sam Houston State University, Joel was awarded the title of Professor Emeritus for his distinguished career teaching physics, science methods, and various education courses in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. During several of those years, Joel served as Program Coordinator of Elementary Education and chairman of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. Some of Joel's other professional contributions include serving as President of Phi Delta Kappa, obtaining 24 grants for the University, conducting, science education workshops for practicing teachers in the summers and serving on the SHSU Faculty Senate. Joel co-authored three editions of a college textbook titled Teaching Science as Inquiry. The book is used in over 100 universities across the United States. Scientific and cultural subjects fascinated Joel. He was especially interested in archaeo-astronomy and became involved in analyzing ancient Native American petroglyphs in Lewis Canyon near Sanderson, Texas. Based on his studies of this site, Joel co-authored a book titled Lewis Canyon Petroglyphs. Following his interests in science and culture, Joel and his wife, Helen, visited many aquariums, Native American sites, and natural wonders across the United States. Family was a source of great joy for Joel. His survivors include Helen, his wife of 47 years, son Richard (Ricky) Bass of Hauptstuhl, Germany, son

Randal (Randy) Bass, daughter-in-law Sarah Bass, and grandson Austin Thomas Bass of Huntsville, Texas. Brothers and sisters-in-law include Linda Bass of Ocean Springs, Mississippi, Charles Daniel Bass and Martha Bass of Evergreen, Colorado, and John David Bass and wife Julie of Montgomery, Texas. Nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews are also part of Joel's surviving family. Joel's parents and his brother Billy Gerald Bass preceded Joel in death. Joel's family wishes to express deep gratitude to those who contributed to his comfort and care during his long illness including his Elkins Lake Baptist Church family, Dr. Carroll Cagle of Conroe, Dr. William Wierda and his staff at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston, and the nurses of Thee Hospice of Huntsville, Texas. Visitation will be held at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home Tuesday evening from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Services to celebrate Joel's life will be conducted at Elkins Lake Baptist Church Wednesday morning at 10:00 with graveside services following at Brooke Cemetery. Pallbearers at the funeral include Dr. Harry Bohan, Dr. David Henderson, Larry Hoff, Dr. John Huber, Dr. Jim Johnson, Lonnie Richards, Dave Smith, and Mike Werner. Joel will be remembered by those who love him for his fun sense of humor, his analytical mind, and the deep well-spring of his faith in God. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts would be welcomed for the building fund of Elkins Lake Baptist Church, Huntsville, Texas. Those wishing to leave memorial condolences may be made at [/www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com).

Tribute Wall



“ *Joel Bass*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *I went online to search for Dr. Bass today. Only to find he passed on 8 years ago. I am very sorry to find that and want to extend my condolences to his family, however late. I first met Joel at Bellaire High in 62/63. He was our physics teacher. He made such a difficult subject interesting and approachable. Our class enjoyed physics which I don't think any of us expected, so good teaching at Bellaire , Joel. After a year or so at Sam Houston I went into the army as so many did in those days. Three years later I decided to use my GI bill and go back to Sam. Had to pick a major. I found myself enrolled as a Physics/Math major, to my surprise. Obviously Joel had more of an impact on me than I realized. One day walking on the campus we saw each other and renewed our friendship. He was Dr. Bass now, and he had a special way about him. A calm caring and easy going persona. It was a pleasure to be around him. I eventually moved to Miami. I have really enjoyed the analytical attitude physics has given me. I feel I owe a lot to Dr. Bass. I have no doubt I am one of many who miss him. I wonder who he is gently teaching now ?*

James Monroe

James Monroe - June 12, 2015 at 01:30 PM



“ *Dr. Bass was ne of my favorite professors. What a sweet man. Your family is in my prayers.*

Angie Stout - January 02, 2008 at 01:56 PM

BM

“Helen, we were out of town and I just now got around to reading the old newspapers and I learned of Joel's death. Herb and I are so sorry. We know he had a long fight with cancer. We send our love and prayers to you and your boys. We will be praying for you. Billye

Billye Muecke - December 21, 2007 at 03:06 PM

EL

“Dearest Helen,
La Moyne and I are so sorry that we couldn't be with you in this time of sorrow, but we were there in prayer. We both loved him. Although I didn't call or correspond, I was in touch through Aunt Doris throughout his illness, and then Charles after her passing. My visit with Lew two years ago, and the lunch with you will always live in my memory, All of our love to you. Buz & La Moyne

Ewing & La Moyne Lovelady - December 07, 2007 at 12:07 PM

PC

“Helen, we wanted you to know we are thinking about you and your family. We certainly know what you are going through and will continue to pray for all of you. Joel and Leon both fought very hard against that horrible disease and are now free of it. Please call if you need to talk. Peggy, Kathy and David Cole

Peggy Cole - December 07, 2007 at 11:49 AM

LS

“Randy and family, I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your dad. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

LaDonna

LaDonna Schwab - December 05, 2007 at 10:19 PM

AS

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
May God give you comfort today and always.*

Allen & Noma Sylvester - December 05, 2007 at 04:53 PM

KH

“ *Randy and Family-
I am sorry to hear of the loss of your father. I pray that the Lord will
provide abundant comfort and peace during this time.*

Ken Holland - December 05, 2007 at 03:46 PM

RG

“ *Sarah and Randy, I am so sorry to hear about your loss. You are in
my thoughts and prayers.*

Regina Ginsel - December 05, 2007 at 01:35 PM

SH

“ *Randy and Family,

I am so sorry to hear about your loss. Please know that my thoughts
and prayers are with you during this difficult time.*

Sharese Hurst - December 05, 2007 at 11:25 AM

PO

“ *We are so sorry for your loss. Your father was a great contributor to
the education of so many. Your family will be in our thoughts and
prayers through this time of loss.*

ParkwayHills Baptist Church Worship and Orchestra - December 05, 2007 at
09:54 AM

CE

“ Randy, I'm sorry for the loss of your dad.

Charlotte Efird - December 05, 2007 at 12:45 AM

VP

“ Helen I know your faith will bring you and your family strength and comfort with the loss of Joel. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Virginia Greenwood Partain - December 04, 2007 at 10:49 PM

KR

“ Helen, Randy, and Ricky,
My heart goes out to you during this time of grief, yet rejoicing. I love all of you and remember the great times we had together. Helen, I especially remember the comfort, care, and love that you and Joel gave us when we lost Traci. Both of you are special friends even when we have been apart for so many years. I love you and pray for your family as we will all miss Joel.
Karen (Henderson) Rhynard

Karen Rhynard - December 04, 2007 at 10:25 PM

TT

“ The year was 1994 when Dr. Joel Bass invited me to his office at Sam Houston State University to have a conversation. It was during this "little chat", as Joel would later characterize the meeting, that he would forever change my professional and personal destiny as he became my mentor, my colleague, and my friend. For you see, Dr. Bass had decided that I would be the right person to become the first Director of the Sam Houston Center for Professional Development (SHCPD); a position that was created because Joel's leadership was instrumental in obtaining a \$1.5 million research grant that would establish the SHCPD.

From that "little chat" in 1994 over the next four years of committee meetings, casual lunches, and cherished late afternoon laughs Dr. Bass was an inspirational mentor, brilliant colleague, and loyal friend. Even when I left SHSU to pursue my career in academia at other universities I could always pick-up the telephone and have a "little chat" with Joel as I searched for insights, guidance, or just a late afternoon laugh. My story is not unique by any means because Dr. Bass was instrumental in launching the careers of many young men and women during his years of service at Sam Houston State University.

While I and thousands will mourn the loss of Dr. Bass we also celebrate his life because we know that his influence is not diminished by his passing. Instead, Joel's legacy continues in the work and in the life of those of us who are privileged to have had the opportunity to call Dr. Joel Bass our mentor, our colleague, our friend.

Thank you Joel for that "little chat" 13 years ago.

Dr. Tony L. Talbert
Associate Professor
School of Education
Baylor University

Tony L. Talbert - December 04, 2007 at 09:37 PM

TG

“ *Helen and all, we send our blessings and our prayers of comfort to you this morning. We also send you our love.*

Love ya,

Terry and

The Original Rebels '57 of South Austin.

Terry Grumbles - December 04, 2007 at 05:52 PM

LM

“ *Helen and family, we are so sorry to hear about Joel. Our family has so many wonderful memories with your family from school, work and church. Howard and I still talk about the night we sat in your "new" kitchen and talked for hours. We love you. Linda, Howard, Brandie, Kenny and Wendie*

Linda Moran - December 04, 2007 at 05:46 PM

MM

“ *Helen, Randy, and Ricky,*

We are praying for you. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matt and Caryn Martin - December 04, 2007 at 04:08 PM

PE

“ *Helen and Family,*

Dr. Bass was a wonderful teacher. He will be missed. My prayers will be with you during this trying time.

Pam Erskine - December 04, 2007 at 01:38 PM

BN

“ *Helen, Ricky, Randy and Sarah,*

I am so sorry to read of Joel's death. You are in my prayers during your time of loss. He was a very special person to SHSU.

Randy, I am so glad you are back home to be with your Mom.

God Bless you all!

Beverly Conner Niederhofer - December 04, 2007 at 01:06 PM

BD

“ *We are saddened by your loss. May God's Amazing Grace always be with you and your family at this sad time.*

Sincerely, Charlene and Bill Dye

Bill and Charlene(Nauert) Dye - December 04, 2007 at 09:59 AM

BA

“ *We send our condolences to you, Helen, Ricky and Randy. Joel was such a wonderful model of courage as he daily dealt with his illness for so long. You have been a blessing in you loving example as a supportive wife, Helen. We will pray for you in your loss as you miss your loved one. The members of Elkins Lake Baptist Church appreciate you and pray for you.*

buddy and jo ann allen - December 04, 2007 at 09:33 AM

GG

“ *I'm very sorry for your loss. I remember Joel when he lived in Anahuac, Texas. He had a wonderful family then as I'm sure he does now. Take care of each other.*

*Love,
Grace Marie*

Grace Hall Guillot - December 04, 2007 at 09:11 AM

MJ

“ Randy, Mike and I want you to know we are praying for you and your family during this difficult time. Let the outpouring of love from your friends and family help you in the days ahead. Rejoice knowing your dad is healed!
Mike and Sue Jones

Mike and Sue Jones - December 04, 2007 at 08:32 AM

NM

“ Randy and family, I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your dad. I know he fought a very courageous battle, but now he is finally completely healed and rejoicing with the Lord! Please know that I am praying for you and your family during this difficult time. Take care, Nikki

Nikki (Jones) Martin - December 03, 2007 at 10:33 PM

LE

“ Helen,

I so sorry to hear of Joel's passing. I always enjoyed being with Joel when we all used to attend the same church. During the many years I lived in Huntsville, whenever you saw Joel he always had a smile on his face and a friendly greeting for you. God Bless you and your family.

Lonnie Eslick - December 03, 2007 at 09:56 PM

AU

“ We are sorry to hear of your loss, you and your family will be in our prayers. God bless you and yours during this time so that you may have comfort and rest in him.

*Jopy & Audra
Applewood Baptist Church
Education*

Audra - December 03, 2007 at 01:31 PM

JM

“ Helen and Family, Joyce and I are so sorry to hear of Joel's passing. He was a great teacher and a wonderful colleague. Our thoughts will continue to be with you. We have many fond rememberances of our times together.

Jimmy Merchant - December 03, 2007 at 01:30 PM

KM

“ I'm sorry we couldn't have known each other any better, but I and my family will be lifting you up during this time of loss. If Charles and Martha are able to make it, please pass along my condolences for his having lost two brothers in such a short time (Billy (my grandpa) and now Joel).

*In Christ,
Kris Mullinax*

Kristofor Mullinax - December 03, 2007 at 12:52 PM

NJ

“ Helen, what fond memories I have of Dr. Bass. He finally got me out of SHSU! What a great teacher and person! Thanks for friends like you two have been. Norma Dell Jones, formerly of Huntsville, now of Lovelady.

Norma Dell Jones - December 03, 2007 at 12:39 PM

DT

“ Helen and family,
Rachel, Ruth and I are so sorry to hear of your loss. Our thoughts and prayers will continue to be with you. Take care of yourself and please remember I am just a phone call away. I do know what you are going through during this time of sorrow. Love, Dorothea

Dorothea Tarver - December 02, 2007 at 11:06 PM

MH

“ I am lifting up you during this time of lost. God blessed you with a wonderful father and lots of memories that will also help during this time. We have a great God who loves us and provides. In Christ, Marvin.

Marvin Hyvl - December 02, 2007 at 08:46 PM

LC

“ We're so sorry for your/our loss of Joel, but blessed to know his long battle is finally WON! He fought long and hard. Our prayers and thoughts are with you all. Wish we could be there, but after checking the dates, my Fort Worth meeting is Wednesday, not Tuesday. God bless you all, now and always.
Love, Jane and Lew

Lew & Jane Center - December 02, 2007 at 07:33 PM

MK

“ We are so sorry for your loss. We will continue to pray for your family.

God Bless,
Missy & Shayne Kintzel

Missy & Shayne Kintzel - December 02, 2007 at 06:07 PM