



## Patrick Bates Nolan

February 4, 1942 - January 30, 2012

Patrick Bates Nolan was born 2/4/1942 to Thomas J. and Cecile H. Nolan in Minneapolis MN, and died peacefully on 1/19/2012 at home in Huntsville, TX following a massive heart attack in November. He graduated from Southwest HS in Minneapolis and attended Carleton College in Northfield MN, where he met Bobbe Ann Shapiro at a square dance. Because Carleton did not then permit students to be married, he transferred to the University of Minnesota, where he completed his BA, MA and Ph.D. in American History. During graduate school summers he proudly served as a Seasonal Park Ranger Historian at Mt. Rushmore, Lincoln's Birthplace National Historic Site, and Glacier National Park. Patrick taught American History and administered archives and special collections at University of Wisconsin, River Falls and at Wright State University in Dayton OH, where he developed a graduate program in public history. He was a founding member of the Midwest Archives Conference and the Society of Ohio Archivists, and spent a year in Washington, DC with the Council on the Humanities. He organized exhibits and published on the Wright Brothers and the documentation of early flight. After a brief period at The Hagley Museum in Wilmington DE, he came to the Sam Houston Memorial Museum in 1992 as Director. He delighted in costumed re-enactment and actually being paid for firing guns and throwing tomahawks. During this time he made 17 trips with the American Orient Express excursion train as a guest lecturer, bragging that this was "the best boondoggle ever." He officially retired from Sam Houston State University at

the end of 2011. Dr. Nolan was active at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Huntsville Rotary, United Way of Walker County, the Texas Prison Museum, the Chamber of Commerce, the Forest Trail, Raven's Rangers and other efforts to promote the University, the Museum, and Huntsville. He was proud to be an honorary member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas and to have served on the board of Humanities Texas. He believed intensely in the value of liberal arts education, railroads and wilderness. Predeceased by his parents, aunts and uncles, and son Patrick Thomas Nolan, he is survived by Bobbe, his wife of 49 years, son Philip George Nolan and wife Kristi of Eagle Lake, TX, granddaughters Catherine Allen Nolan and Rachel Reminder, sister Kathleen Dypwick (Jeff) of Chaska MN, and nieces Ann and Lisa Dypwick of Bastrop TX. Funeral services will be held at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church on Monday, January 30, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. Following the service the family will receive visitors at the Katy and E. Don Walker Education Center on 19th Street from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please consider joining the Friends of the Sam Houston Memorial Museum, or making a contribution to the Sam Houston Folk Festival or to the Rotary Water Well Program. Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at [www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Patrick Bates Nolan*

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November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Please accept our families condolences on the loss of a beautiful and enlightened man. Our hearts go out to Bobbe, Philip, Katherine, Kristi and all the family and friends who were lucky enough to know and learn from such a thoughtful and genuinely caring man. Rest in peace Mr. Nolan, and, thank you.*

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**Frank Skelly Jr.** - February 01, 2012 at 05:07 PM



“ *Oh no...I am so saddened by this. Dr. Pat was such a big part of the Forest Trail region for so many years - he was always 'up' for anything.*

*Texas truly has lost a 'Treasure!'*

*Blessings and comfort to his family!*

*Teresia*

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**Teresia Wims** - January 31, 2012 at 02:08 PM

TW

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*Teresia*

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**Teresia Wims** - January 31, 2012 at 02:08 PM

SH

“ Dearest Bobbe and Family,

*Please accept my sincerest condolences on Pat's passing.*

*As you well know, Pat was my first "archival mentor" - my OHS "field office" was located in his shop at WSU when I started work in 1975 right out of graduate school. His passion for this profession, life in general, and (of course) his sense of humor are long and fondly remembered by a legion of associates.*

*Best,*

*Steve Haller  
Indianapolis*

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**Steve Haller** - January 30, 2012 at 09:50 AM

SH

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*Best,*

*Steve Haller  
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**Steve Haller** - January 30, 2012 at 09:50 AM

BS

“ Bobbe and family,

*We will always remember Pat's wonderful sense of humor and his diligent service to community, church and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew at St. Stephen's, Huntsville. He will be sorely missed. Be assured of our continued prayers for you as you continue through and beyond this difficult time. Bob and Rosemary Streeter*

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**Bob & Rosemary Streeter** - January 30, 2012 at 09:34 AM

TS

“ Bobbe, my sincerest condolences to you and your family for your loss. Dr. Nolan will long be remembered for his passion, commitment & contributions to this community.

*Terry Stivers*

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**Terry Stivers** - January 29, 2012 at 01:37 PM

JR

“ All of Southwest Class of '60 will miss Pat. Our reunion in 2010 has become quite poignant. As one of my very best friends ever, I will miss meeting again with Pat and Bobbe and sharing memories of German Club Dance "shuhplottel", canoing down Minnehaha Creek, not the falls of course, and the high level of educated humor which prevailed in the classes we shared. Our sympathy to Bobbe and family. We all had expectations of more memories to come. The next phase of our lives is through faith. With love, Jim & Sandi Reed

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**Jim Reed** - January 29, 2012 at 11:29 AM

KH

“ Doc brought energy and life to the idea of Texans preserving, and telling the stories of the people of Texas. He found what were in effect the dusty forgotten books of our past and made them reachable and understandable. Like my ancestors who came to the Brazos Valley in the 1830s, Doc in his way was a true pioneer. Though it is shocking to lose him, let us be grateful for the days we had with him.

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**Kent Hargett** - January 28, 2012 at 01:53 PM

DC

“ I am an old archival colleague of Pat's and although you don't know me, I share and sympathize in your loss. I knew Pat from Wisconsin connections and through the Midwest Archives Conference and kept up through his early years at Sam Houston. He was a great presence, a dedicated historian and archivist, and a longtime colleague and friend. The professions and places in which he worked are richer more meaningful places because of his contributions. His sense of humor and his infectious laugh will stay with me. I know many around the country will mourn in his passing but remain grateful to have known him.

Dick Cameron  
Depoe Bay, OR

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**Dick Cameron** - January 28, 2012 at 11:37 AM

RD

“ I was floored to hear of the news and am so sorry to find out. I give you, Mrs. Nolan, a big cyber hug until I can see you. Dr. Nolan was always a joyous person for me to visit with. I thank God for the opportunity to have been around him the time I was.

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**Rafannette Dooley** - January 27, 2012 at 05:28 PM

BI

“ I am very sorry for your loss. It was a great pleasure and honor working with Pat. From the staff at Washington-on-the-Brazos SHS

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**Bill Irwin** - January 26, 2012 at 04:23 PM

BE

“ I am extremely saddened to hear of Pat's passing. We shared much in grade school as we walked home together, and had lots of laughs in high school too. Who can forget his portrayal of the curmudgeonly "Man Who Came To Dinner" in the class play? The country will dearly miss a man who accomplished so much, and would doubtless have accomplished yet a great deal more, were he not taken from us far too early. My deepest condolences to Bobbie and the family.

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**Bruce Edsten** - January 26, 2012 at 09:20 AM

BE

“ Patrick Nolan was a good friend in grade school and high school. Even though we didn't keep in touch, I I share my sadness at his passing. God's blessing to all his family and friends. I still live in Minneapolis.

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**Bonnie McFadden Ellis** - January 25, 2012 at 06:11 PM

JJ

“ Dr. Nolan was very dedicated to the Museum and to all of SHSU. I believe that he will be remembered for many years to come by the Museum and campus.

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**Joseph Janczak** - January 24, 2012 at 03:02 PM

MC

“ Although we did not know Mr. Nolan personally, his son Phil and wife Kristi are part of the Eagle Lake community and we share in their loss. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Nolan family.

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**Mary Parr, Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce** - January 23, 2012 at 12:09 PM

KW

“ *What an amazing man with so many accomplishments. A beautiful love story of enduring love and committment. My sincere condolence over the loss of Patrick. Bobbe, I love you my friend!*

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**Kerrie Wallace** - January 23, 2012 at 09:05 AM

JP

“ *My sincere condolences to the family of this wonderful man. He will be sorely missed by family and friends. Rest in peace Patrick.*

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**Juanita Plock** - January 22, 2012 at 08:25 PM

DB

“ *Dr. Nolan was a great mentor, friend and colleague. He will be missed.*

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**Derrick Birdsall** - January 21, 2012 at 08:05 PM

RV

“ *They are not dead who live in the hearts of those they leave behind.  
Tuskarora proverb  
A true friend to all who knew him.*

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**Robert Vann** - January 21, 2012 at 03:37 PM

KC

“ *Pat was a wonderful man who loved his adopted town very much. He will be missed very much. Huntsville and St. Stephens has lost a great friend, but Heaven has gained a new soul.*

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**Karmyn Crabb** - January 21, 2012 at 12:34 PM

JJ

“Huntsville has lost a dear friend. My prayers are with the family at this time.

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**Jeannine Jacoby** - January 21, 2012 at 09:19 AM

PJ

“Dr. Nolan provided vision and hard work that resulted in Sam Houston Memorial Museum receiving national accreditation and much wider public awareness. The many new programs and special events (such as lectures, exhibits, and other educational activities) made the Museum a major cultural center for Huntsville. It is a sad irony that he died just as he was preparing for a well-deserved retirement. He will be greatly missed, and Joan's and my thoughts are with his family.

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**Paul M. Culp, Jr.** - January 21, 2012 at 12:23 AM

DF

“Pat was our friend. We are deeply grateful for the many things he taught us, the times he helped us, and the memories of his smile and laughter. We will miss him very much. Please know of our genuine sympathy and prayers.

-Coram Deo

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**Denton and Mary Lou Florian** - January 20, 2012 at 07:22 PM

WF

“Thank you, Dr. Nolan, for your outstanding contribution to the historical community and for always making me feel welcome. My prayers go out to your family.

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**Wayne & Deborah Fowler** - January 20, 2012 at 04:41 PM

ML

“ Rest in peace, Patrick. You will be missed by many. My condolences, Bobbe, I wish you much strenght.

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**Marjolein Lemmon** - January 20, 2012 at 12:11 PM

MT

“ Dr. Nolan was a great person Thanks for being such a good friend. Thoughts and Prayers to your family. You will be missed.

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**Michael and TeresaLawson** - January 20, 2012 at 11:35 AM

BN

“ Patrick, Thank you for your years of service to SHSU. May your family be comforted by our Lord at this time. You will be missed. Rest in Peace.

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**Beverly Conner Niederhofer** - January 20, 2012 at 09:59 AM