



Robert Leon Shadle

August 23, 1937 - May 14, 2019

In Memory of

Robert “Bob” Leon Shadle

Aug. 23, 1937 — May 14, 2019

Robert Leon Shadle, 81, passed away in Huntsville, Texas on May 14, 2019. Affectionately known as “Bob,” he was beloved by his devoted family, friends, colleagues, and former students at Sam Houston State University (SHSU) in Huntsville, where he served as an associate professor of history for nearly 50 years, retiring in 2011.

Bob was born Aug. 23, 1937 in Davenport, Iowa to Agnes White Shadle and Clarence Lee Shadle. After graduating from Davenport High School in 1956, he earned a Bachelor of Arts in history from St. Ambrose College in Davenport in 1960. Upon graduation, he gained admittance to The University of Iowa in Iowa City, where he earned a Master of Arts in history and embarked on doctoral studies in the same field. As a student, Bob was awarded the national Woodrow Wilson Fellowship, granted to outstanding young scholars in higher education and public service. Concurrent with earning his education, Bob served as a sergeant in the Iowa National Guard for over eight years prior to the Vietnam War.

In 1965, Bob left the great state of Iowa for warmer weather and his treasured faculty position at SHSU. As a professor, Bob shaped the minds of generations of students who were lucky enough to enter his classroom. With great passion, he taught many areas of history from U.S. history to his specialty, the British Empire. A talented writer, he edited countless articles, texts, and books in his field, including the Historical Dictionary of the British Empire, written by (which he called co-edited with) his dear friend and colleague, James S. Olson. Throughout his nearly five decade tenure in academia, Bob garnered numerous professional achievements, from establishing The Southwest Association of Canadian Studies to presenting at conferences in Montreal, Canada and Athens, Greece. However, Bob believed his crowning achievement was helping to shape the minds and characters of his two favorite students, his daughter Regina and his son, Juan Paul — and later, the minds and hearts of his grandchildren.

Supporting Bob on his journey was his beautiful wife of 52 years, Lidia, whom he cherished. Bob relished telling anyone who would listen the story of how he met “Mi Amor.” Lidia was Bob’s “rock” and inspiration every day of their lives together, and he loved her deeply.

Bob was preceded in death by his father and mother, Agnes and Clarence, and is survived by his wife, Lidia Hernandez Shadle of Huntsville; his son, Juan Paul Shadle of Tomball, Texas; his daughter and son-in-law, Regina Shadle Nolan and Christopher David Nolan of Houston, Texas; his sister and brother-in-law, Barbara and Tom Otting of Davenport, Iowa; his three grandchildren who were the light of his life: Oakley Fairbanks Martinez and her husband, Anthony Martinez; Caitlin Shadle; and Ethan Nolan, whom he lovingly called “My boy”; his only great-grandchild, Rowan Martinez; and a large extended family who had the great pleasure of showering him with love throughout his life.

Visitation with the family will be held Sunday, May 19, 2019 between 3 – 5 p.m., and a memorial service for Bob will take place Monday, May 20, 2019 at 2 p.m. at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home. As many of his friends and family know, Bob was a lover of all animals, and his pet cats, dogs, and even a squirrel brought him great joy over the years. In lieu of flowers, the family asks those wishing to express their sympathy to consider donating to the Rita B. Huff Animal Shelter or a non-kill animal shelter in their community.

Cemetery Details

Mayes Addition of Oakwood Cemetery

800 Martin Luther King BLVD.
Huntsville, TX 77320

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 19. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

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

Service

MAY 20. 2:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Leon Shadle*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Caitlin lit a candle in memory of Robert Leon Shadle*



Caitlin - June 27, 2020 at 01:57 PM



“ *The College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Sam Houston State University extends our heartfelt condolences to the Shadle family. Professor Shadle was a beloved member of the History faculty for 50 years. As we mourn his passing, we honor his dedication to his students, to his field, and to the university.*

Dean Abbey Zink - May 28, 2019 at 01:46 PM



“ *Regina and family, Thinking of you and hoping you've had some time to talk about the many fond memories of your dad. Our prayers are with you. Stephanie*

stephanie genova - May 19, 2019 at 11:31 PM

BW

“ Regina and family, i am sending prayers your way - I feel like i knew your dad, since you talked so fondly of him. I am so glad that Ethan got to meet him and spend time with him. Bridgette Wewers

bridgette wewers - May 19, 2019 at 08:42 PM

LD

“ My prayers go out to the family. Mr. Shadle was the best history prof I ever had. I almost changed my major to history because of him.

Lora Dollar - May 19, 2019 at 01:32 PM

BN

“ Lidia, so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you during your time of grief.

Beverly Conner Niederhofer

beverly conner niederhofer - May 19, 2019 at 10:59 AM

RP

“ Robbynn & David Provenzano purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Robert Leon Shadle.



Robbynn & David Provenzano - May 18, 2019 at 10:40 AM


Charlotte
Efird

“ *Charlotte Efird lit a candle in memory of Robert Leon Shadle*



Charlotte Efird - May 17, 2019 at 10:29 PM

MS

“ *Hi, I am Regina's manager at HP. By the way, she is super talented and great to have in my team. Unfortunately, never had a chance to thank Robert for raising such an amazing professional and giving HP and all of us the opportunity to work with such human being. As many of you know, Regina, David and Ethan spent a year in Korea away of the family, away from Robert. And I remembered that when the assignment was over Regina told me it was time to go back home and be close to her parents, and give her and especially Ethan the opportunity to spend more time with grandpa's. While we would have loved that their time together was longer, it was better than no time. I am sending my condolences to the Shadle and I feel extremely sorry for Robert's loss. Will be thinking of the family and keep Robert in my prayers.*

Martin Stier - May 16, 2019 at 05:47 PM

NL

“ *Lydia, I am so sorry.*

Nancy Leavell - May 16, 2019 at 02:35 PM



“ *Bountiful Rose Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Leon Shadle.*



May 16, 2019 at 01:21 PM



“ *M. Hyvl lit a candle in memory of Robert Leon Shadle*



M. Hyvl - May 16, 2019 at 10:48 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert Leon Shadle.*



May 15, 2019 at 03:46 PM



“ *Friends & Colleagues at HP purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Robert Leon Shadle.*



Friends & Colleagues at HP - May 15, 2019 at 01:58 PM



“ *Clay Newcomb & Frances Newcomb lit a candle in memory of Robert Leon Shadle*



Clay Newcomb & Frances Newcomb - May 15, 2019 at 11:13 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Leon Shadle.*



May 15, 2019 at 10:05 AM