



Suler E. Ryan

July 30, 1918 - October 9, 2007

Dr. Suler Eldon Ryan passed away on the afternoon of Friday, October 5, 2007, in Kingwood, Texas, from complications of Alzheimer's disease. He was preceded in death by his wife, Velma Greenfield Ryan and son, Dr. Thomas Eldon (Tommy) Ryan. He is survived by daughter, Linda Evans and son-in-law Mickey S. Evans; son, Kenny Ryan and daughter-in-law Paula Ryan; and daughter, Pam Rathke and son-in-law David Rathke. He is also survived by grandchildren Leanne Evans Keeble and family, Julie Evans Burney and family, Kevin Ryan and family, Kyle Ryan, Katie Ryan Grupa and family, Kara Ryan, Bryan Rathke, and Benjamin Rathke; and great-grandchildren Audie Keeble, John Thomas (J.T.) Burney, Jenna Burney, Molly Ryan, Sydney Ryan, Christian Grupa, and Haylee Ryan. He is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews and three brothers: Ray Ryan of Lamar, Missouri, Devoy Ryan and wife Leota of Kingwood, Texas, recently of Memphis, Tennessee, and Jack Ryan and wife, Ginny, of Jefferson City, Missouri. Suler was born to Charles Wilkerson Ryan and Fannie DeAngeles Moore Ryan on July 30, 1918, in Jasper, Barton County, Missouri, seventh child of thirteen. His was a farming family and he grew up in the age of horse-drawn plows, steam-threshing machines, and horse-powered hay balers. He and his next older brother were the first in the family to get high school educations. They were also the first to be encouraged to go to college, which they both did, earning doctorates in education. After graduating high school in 1936, he entered Southwest Missouri State Teachers College. During the first two years, he

worked various jobs to support himself and his mom sent him twenty-five cents out of her egg money whenever she could, reminding him not to let other people know that he had any money. He began teaching in a one-room rural school in 1938, taking correspondence courses and attending classes during the summer and the short spring semesters when classes were held for rural teachers whose school terms ran only eight months. Suler married Velma Greenfield, who was also a rural school teacher, in 1939, and graduated college in 1941 with a four-year college degree and three years teaching experience. In 1943 Suler entered Naval Air Navigation School in Hollywood, Florida, as an Ensign. He served as a navigation instructor and navigator on patrol bombers (PBY's) out of Hawaii. When released from active duty in 1946, he enrolled in the University of Missouri, completed his Masters Degree that fall, and served as Superintendent of Schools in Wright City, Missouri for two years. He then returned to the University of Missouri and completed his Doctorate in June, 1950, upon which he accepted a one-year temporary appointment at Sam Houston State Teachers College. Except for two years (1953-1955) in Martinez, California, Suler and his family have lived in Huntsville, Texas. He retired in 1980 as Dean, College of Education, Sam Houston State University. He thoroughly enjoyed his retirement, traveling with Velma, researching family genealogy, gardening, tracking politics and education, growing roses to share, and going fishing. One of his predominant interests was family, which he and Velma both instilled in their children by making yearly, sometimes twice yearly, trips back to Missouri to visit both sets of parents and extended family. The symptoms of Alzheimer's began to take its toll in 1988. However, he and Velma continued to live at home until 1999, when they moved to Carriage Inn, where they lived until Velma's death in July, 2002. At that time, he moved to Silverado in Kingwood near Kenny's home. It is with great sadness and joy that his family bids farewell to this long life, lived in hard work, dedication, honesty, sincerity, and good humor. Visitation will be held on Monday, October 8, 5:00 to 8:00 P.M., at the Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home. Services will be held at the funeral home at 4:00 in the

afternoon on Tuesday, October 9, with burial following immediately at Oakwood Cemetery in Huntsville, Texas. Pall bearers for the service will be Mickey Evans, Kenny Ryan, David Rathke, Kevin Ryan, Kyle Ryan, Bryan Rathke, and Benjamin Rathke.

Tribute Wall



“ *Suler E. Ryan*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *The year was 1957, I was finishing my degree at North Texas State University. Dr Hazel Floyd and Miss Valine Hobbs were looking a "man" to join the two who were the "elementary education" department. Suler had left the choice up to them. At North Texas the forms said first name, MI, last name. For me that was Arlie K. Turkett. Your Dad, said "What does the "K" stand for. Keith I said... That was I am going to call you. So from then on it was Keith Turkett. I was the baby faculty member. When we had a group picture made for the SH Yearbook, M.B. and your Dad suggested I sit in Elizabeth Andrew's lap. As the new kid on the block your Dad made my orientation to college teaching a breeze. Our time in Huntsville was short, but we returned many times to visit with the Wolfes, Ryans, Ethridges, Andrews and many other friends. Please take comfort in knowing that your Dad and Mother made a great impact on our lives and they will hold a special place in our hearts forever. Linda, Kenny, and Pam may the God of Love abide with you as you remember the love that your parents and Tommy gave each of you. Accept our sympathy in the knowledge that Suler, Velma, and Tommy are having a great reunion. These is truly the victory. (Read Psm 121)- Keith and Shirley Turkett (1957-1962)*

A Keith & Shirley Turkett - October 28, 2007 at 05:11 PM

DT

“ Pam, David, Bryan and Benjamin. I am so sorry to hear of your father's and grandfather's death. I have been out of town and just returned today. I am so sorry I was not able to come to visitation and the memorial services. My condolences to each of you. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help you. I know how hard this time is for all of you. You are very special friends to me. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Take care and know that God will give you the peace and comfort to sustain you through this time. Love to each of you, Dorothea

Dorothea Tarver - October 11, 2007 at 12:43 AM

HH

“ Pam, David, Bryan, and Benjamin--
You are all in our thoughts and prayers during this time of loss. Your father was obviously a work driven man, yet cared a great deal about his family and values. You have taken his ways in raising your family and your children will value that as they start families of their own. Hold on to your memories and know that God is with your dad as he goes "home" to be with your mother. These guardian angels will watch over all of you.
We wish we could be there with you during this time but will call you later to see how you are doing.
Much love,
Kent, Hope, Sarh Jean, Lindsay Joy, and Heidi Jill Hatteberg

Hope Hatteberg - October 09, 2007 at 05:40 PM

BN

“ Your Father was a very special man. Each pay period there were certain professors we looked forward to coming into the office to cheer our day. Your Father was always so nice and pleasant. I feel he really added to the Education Departments advancement.

My your family be comforted by the Lord during your time of loss.

Beverly Conner Niederhofer - October 09, 2007 at 11:15 AM

MC

“ Pam - Your dad was the first person who ever gave me the idea that growing vegetables in the back yard would be a great idea. I think some of my earliest feelings of envy and inspiration were when he brought in strawberries picked in your very own back yard! I went home and announced that I was going to grow a garden in our back yard and of course we had NO SUN, so it was an utter failure. Still, my garden is a source of sanity for me now (and frustration sometimes, but mostly sanity) and I do think of your dad and my late father-in-law when I am out there wishing my tomato cages were bigger and stronger. Take care and revel in your happy memories. He was a great guy. Hugs to you and your guys, Mar and Lee

Martha Cox - October 08, 2007 at 08:45 PM

MH

“ My thoughts and prayers are with your family during this difficult time. Martha Snodgrass Hutchinson

Martha Snodgrass Hutchinson - October 08, 2007 at 07:26 PM

KF

“ Kenny,Linda and Pam, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I do know how hard it is, and will be praying for peace for all of you. Both of your parents were special people, whom I considered one of my sets of parents. I take comfort, as I am sure you do, in knowing he his back with your sweet momma where he belongs. I love you all and hope you know I would do anything for any of you at any time.

Kay Nabors Fountain - October 08, 2007 at 04:22 PM

MB

“ Dear Pam and Family:

We are so sorry to hear of your loss. Your Father seemed like a great man. We will keep you in our thoughts during this sad time.

Take good care,

Molly and Family

<http://mollylou.tripod.com>

Molly Berke - October 08, 2007 at 02:16 PM

SP

“ Pam,
Our deepest sympathy at the loss of your dad.... You are in our prayers and our thoughts. Much love to you all.

Sharon and Bob

Sharon and Bob Parham - October 07, 2007 at 09:24 PM

BM

“ Pam and family,
I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. You are and will continue to be in
my thoughts and prayers.

Bridget Maloney - October 07, 2007 at 09:45 AM

NJ

“ Dr. Suler Ryan, no finer man or professor has walked the halls of
Sam Houston State University. There are so many of us that owe so
much to this man. What a blessing you were to all of us, Dr. Ryan. I
owe my Masters Degree to you! Thank you for the years you served
many many students. Norma Dell Jones, SHSU Grad and former
SHSU ALumni Director 1977-1992.

Norma Dell Jones - October 06, 2007 at 11:21 AM

NJ

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