



Walter Hugh Bennett, Sr.

February 26, 1938 - June 8, 2013

Walter Hugh Bennett, Sr. Walter Hugh Bennett, Sr., husband of Minnie Margaret Bennett, was born February 26, 1938 to Howard and Alice Wade Bennett in Beaumont, Texas. He passed away on June 5, 2013, at age 75. Walter was preceded in death by his wife, Minnie Margaret Bennett; parents, Howard and Alice Bennett; and brother, Phil Bennett. Walter is survived by his son, Walter H. Bennett, Jr. of Huntsville and daughter-in-law Cynthia Bennett; grandchildren, Bradley Bennett, Ashley Bennett and Morgan Bennett of Huntsville; sisters, Betty R. O'Quinn and husband Bubba of College Station, Joann B. Burrell and husband Reggie of Cleveland; sister-in-law Wanda Roberson and husband Leonard of Goodrich; nieces and nephews, Dee Ann Cathy, Michael O'Quinn, Donna McCollum and husband Mark, Byron O'Quinn, Regina Findeisen and husband John, Andrea Hues and husband Tom; numerous great-nieces and nephews, and great-great-nieces and nephews; and cousins, Veda Showers and Ttil Bianchi. Walter grew up in Devers and graduated from Liberty High School in 1956. After high school, he attended Sam Houston State University and graduated in 1961 with a degree in Sociology. While attending Sam Houston State University, he met and married his wife of 50 years, Minnie Margaret Bennett, and had one child, Walter H. Bennett, Jr. He continued his education at Sam Houston State University, and received an M.A. in Sociology in 1962. He then went to Mississippi State University, and received his Ph.D. in Sociology in 1970. Walter began his teaching career at Sam Houston State University as an instructor in the

Sociology Department from 1962 to 1964. While working on his Doctorate from Mississippi State, he was a teaching and research assistant, and held a part-time faculty position. In 1970 Walter became an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Sam Houston State University, and in 1973 accepted the position of Acting Chair of Sociology. From 1974 to 1994 he continued as Chair of the Department of Sociology. He retired from Sam Houston State University in 2010. Walter was a distinguished member of the SHSU Sociology Department for more than forty years. He was the youngest faculty member appointed department chair in the history of the Sociology Department, and the chair who served the longest term. During his career at SHSU, he distinguished himself for his dedication to the University, the Department, its faculty and students. He received recognition in 2011 as a College of Humanities and Social Sciences Wall of Honor recipient. Walter served a thirty-six year long teaching career through SHSU with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. He was able to observe of this tenure five hundred and twenty-two students within the TDCJ system proudly receive their SHSU diplomas in Sociology and minor's in Psychology. In recognition for his work in 2001, he was presented at the Wynn Unit graduation a Distinguished Service Award for 25 years of service as an educator in the TDCJ Institutions. After retirement, he devoted his time to his grandchildren whom he dearly loved. He was also an active member throughout his life with the First United Methodist Church. He enjoyed spending time with family, special friends, former colleagues, and former students. He will be truly missed. In lieu of flowers, Memorial donations may be made to: Walter and Minnie Bennett Scholarship Fund, University Advancement Office, SHSU Box 2537, Huntsville, Texas 77341 or a charity of your choice. Family will receive friends Friday, June 7, 2013, 5:00-7:00 p.m., at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home Chapel in Huntsville, Texas. Funeral services for Walter will be held Saturday, June 8, 2013, 10:00 a.m., at First United Methodist Church, 1016 Sam Houston Avenue, Huntsville, Texas with burial to follow at 1:00 p.m. at Conroe Memorial Park Cemetery in Conroe, Texas. Those wishing to leave

memorial condolences for the family may do so at www.shmfh.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Walter Hugh Bennett, Sr.*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *I am deeply saddened to learn of Dr. Bennett's passing. He was one of my professors at Sam Houston State and I learned much from his teaching. A fine professor and department chair.*

Richard Schmidt - July 15, 2019 at 12:22 PM



“ *I just stumbled upon Dr. Bennett's obituary on a Sam Houston Facebook page. I'm truly sorry for your loss. Dr. Bennett was a wonderful man. He generously helped me in my pursuit of a Religious Studies minor, teaching me in a one-on-one independent studies class. He was chair of the Pastor/Parish Relations committee at FUMC when I declared my candidacy for the ministry and was kind and supportive during that process. When I came back to SHSU 10 years later for my M.A., he supported my husband and I in the establishment of the Native American Student Association. A good and decent man. I know he is missed.*

Kelly Murdock-Billy - May 14, 2014 at 07:15 PM

JL

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of Walter's passing...he was one of the best professors I ever had and was instrumental in not only my education, but in launching my career as a professor of sociology...he got me my first job. He was an amazing man who always had the best interests of those he loved at heart. He always spoke so lovingly of his family to me...and I have always considered him part of my family as well. I am so sorry that he is no longer with us and that I never got that final visit (which I did do every couple of years!)

*Jon Loessin
Columbus, TX*

Jon Loessin - January 25, 2014 at 10:06 PM

LP

“ Dr Bennett was of my dearest friends and my professor in sociology. I will miss him very much. God bless him and his family at his passing.

Larry Ponder - July 06, 2013 at 07:03 PM

JS

“ What a kind man. Our paths crossed frequently while working at the university over decades. Always a pleasure to interact with him. My condolences to his family. I believe there are a lot of former inmates that had a better chance on the outside because of his dedication that they deserved a chance at education. Just one more way that he made a difference in the world.

J. Smith - July 05, 2013 at 12:35 PM

LC

“ To the Bennett family--I was very sorry to hear of the loss of Walter. Walter and my father were very good friends while my dad was a professor at SHSU. Your father was a great man and I really cared for him. I also knew your grandfather--Mr. Sams--when he was a security guard at FNB Conroe. He too, was a fine man. Once again, I was very sorry to hear of the passing of your dad.

Larry Corley - June 13, 2013 at 07:33 PM

AS

“ I had just spoke with Mr. Bennett on Saturday at Wal-Mart. Always so kind and gentle with that sweet smile. He was a gem to us all at Wiesner. He will be forever missed but never forgotten. God bless you all!

Anne Smith - June 13, 2013 at 12:50 PM

KH

“ Walter,

I've heard from many that you dad was truly a man among men. Working with you all of these years it's easily noted that you follow in his footsteps well. My deepest sympathy to you and your family. God Bless you Walter.

Kay Hordesky - June 13, 2013 at 09:24 AM

JA

“ Dr. Bennett was one of my favorite teachers at SHSU he has definately left a great legacy. Thoughts and prayers to the Bennett family.

Johnny Amick - June 12, 2013 at 11:42 PM

GM

“ Walter: I was sorry to hear about your Father. I will never forget, while living in Huntsville and attending First Methodist Church, your father was always there to take up the collection. He was a valuable individual to the church, community, university and his family. I'm sure also that he was very proud of you and your accomplishments. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Gene Meyers - June 12, 2013 at 06:04 PM

DS

“ I always thought the world of Walter Bennett--what a kind gentleman!
My thoughts and prayers go out to Walter Jr and his family

Deborah Stallings - June 11, 2013 at 03:24 PM

JB

“ I lived in Huntsville for 30 years after graduating with a degree in Sociology from SHSU in 1981. Dr. Bennett was more than a professor. Anytime he would see me in town, he would always speak and for a few years after my graduation, he would always say, "You need to go back to school." Although, I never took him up on his word, I always was thankful for his time in that he wanted me to get as much education possible. I now live in Palestine and in passing saw that Dr. B. had passed away. My thoughts and prayers are with the family. Dr. Bennett was a wonderful educator and I am very lucky that he taught me. GOD BLESS you Dr. Bennett.

John(Scott) Boyd - June 11, 2013 at 12:04 PM

MF

“ Walter & Cynthia & Children:
I am so sorry for your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Mellicent Sikes Wiley & Family - June 11, 2013 at 09:41 AM

AS

“ Walt and I talked so many hours of his family, friends and students. He was honored to have such a loving community who stood by him -- through everything. I was friends with Minnie for about 35 years. When they were together there was always magic. With her countless praise and devotion, Walt became the charismatic person I came to know. His endless commitment to other's personal growth enamored me to him. I remember sitting and listening to his countless phone calls -- and enjoying his quick wit and liveliness as he spoke to all his friends -- and always the Bearkats & grandchildren would "Pop" into the conversation. Minnie and Walt will forever have my undying love -- My heart goes out to the family and to all he touched.

Alma Sepulveda - June 10, 2013 at 11:25 AM

BP

“ Oyr thoughts and prayers go out to your family.

Billy and Peggy - June 09, 2013 at 11:49 AM

BS

“ Dr. Bennett was a great teacher. He was always encouraging, supportive and a positive influence in our lives. We will always treasure our memories of him.

Brian & Ree Slovin - June 08, 2013 at 07:57 PM

SE

“ Cynthia , Walter - we are so, so saddened at Walter's sudden " transition" into God's Loving Arms and to his joining precious Minnie- this reunion is our consolation in the tremendous sadness you and all who loved Walter are and will continue to experience. You and your children were his world. We hold each of you closely in our hearts and sympathy as we mourn the loss of a true gentleman.

Sunny and Bob Ernst

Sunny& Bob Ernst - June 08, 2013 at 03:45 PM

TH

“ To all the Bennett Family our deep and sincere condolences in your loss. He was a kind and wonderful man who will be missed by so many people who had the privilege to know him.

Terry and Mary Lee Hoage - June 08, 2013 at 12:39 PM

HA

“ A good man was lost from this planet. Not many like Doc. Bennett left. For all the friends and family left behind, all are better people because of knowing him.

H. Adair - June 08, 2013 at 11:12 AM

DO

“ My deepest condolences to the family for your loss, one day soon, all suffering, pain and death will be no more - Revelation 21:3, 4.

Doris - June 07, 2013 at 10:39 PM

MM

“ I had the honor of having Dr. Bennett as a teacher and as my guidance counselor. He was a wonderful and caring teacher. He will be missed by many. God Bless your family!

Monica McGrath - June 07, 2013 at 07:47 PM

JW

“ As former students and part of his church family, Dr. Bennett made such an impact on our lives. We are so very sorry for your loss. Prayers to all of you for comfort and peace.

Jim and Janice Willett - June 07, 2013 at 07:20 PM

CT

“ TO ALL THE BENNETT FAMILY CHARLES AND I SEND OUR LOVE AND PRAYERS TO ALL OF YOU. MR. BENNETT WAS ONE OF THE MOST HONORABLE GENTLEMAN WE KNEW. OUR PRAYERS AND THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU. HE IS WITH YOUR MOM NOW AND VERY HAPPY. MAY GOD CONTINUE TO SERVE ALL OF YOU, OUR LOVE

BETTY AND CHARLES TACKETT

CHARLES & BETTY TACKETT - June 07, 2013 at 05:16 PM

BS

“ Dr. Bennett helped me to graduate from Sam Houston University. When I was at a point in life where I wanted to quit, he encouraged me to continue "if you just hang in there and keep coming to class you will pass." He was right. I did pass and graduated. That was over 16 years ago. He was a professor, friend and ear to listen to my problems. Thank you Dr. Bennett, I could not have done it without you. To the family of Dr. Bennett may God bless and keep you at this difficult time. Rest assured that Dr. Walter Bennett Sr. is in his care.

Bridgette Sandles - June 07, 2013 at 04:53 PM

TL

“ Very sorry for the loss of Dr. Bennett, have very fond memories of him while I was growing up. He will be truly missed. My condolences to the family, keep him in your heart, as will I.

Trae Lawler - June 07, 2013 at 04:40 PM

BS

“ *Walter, Cynthia & Family:*
Our deepest sympathy to you and your family.
Your Dad was such a kind, smart man. He is the one who made the difference in so many lives. Those who knew him are better for it. Many prayers have been lifted for you and yours. May God bless and comfort you during this very difficult time.

Becky and Don Spelce - June 07, 2013 at 04:00 PM

RC

“ Dr. Bennett was a kind and giving man. We worked together at the Walls Unit when he taught his SHSU Sociology classes. He will be missed. He brought a ray of sunshine to many lives.

Randi Clower - June 07, 2013 at 03:41 PM

JG

“ I am the grand-daughter of Dorothy Smith who lived behind Minnie and Walter Bennett. He was dearly loved by my grandmother and us kids. We loved his cute little dog and he was always super nice to all of us. I am deeply sorry for such a loss. God has added another Bennett to His family.

Jessica Gathright - June 07, 2013 at 03:25 PM

DW

“ My deepest sympathy to the Bennett family on your loss. I first met Walter in 1965 and since that time I have held him in the highest regard. I enjoyed my long association with him at SHSU and as a neighbor. We have had many "deep" conversations at the grocery store through the years. He was a truly good man who has touched many lives.

Dorothy Wooten - June 07, 2013 at 02:39 PM

JM

“ Walter was an outstanding educator who always had the best interests of his students in mind. His great concern for his students, SHSU, and his family took priority in his life.

Jimmy Merchant - June 07, 2013 at 01:47 PM

CE

“ Walt, I'm sorry about your dad. I had him for the intro Sociology class. I loved him and the class.

Charlotte Efird - June 07, 2013 at 01:22 PM

DH

“ So sorry to hear of the loss not, just to the Bennett family, but the world as a whole. I was one of the many, many lives Walter touched while teaching the incarcerated. He changed my whole paradigm and life-view. Hardly a day goes by where I don't read an article or observe and event and wonder what he would say about it. In our most recent conversation we discussed the Occupy Movement and as I expressed enthusiasm, he continued to challenge me with questions and encouraged me to continue with my writing project on reentry. He was a great teacher and mentor. He had shoes that cannot be filled. Goodbye to a good man.
To his family, I express my dearest, deepest condolences. I'm so sorry for your loss.

Derek Hilla - June 07, 2013 at 01:02 PM

DM

“ Walter Bennett was a challenging and type A personality individual who took no punches but could deliver quite a few. I feel blessed to have loosely associated with him in my 7 years at Sam in maintenance and frequently refer to his attitudes towards life in my personal challenges. Also I grew up in the same church. Grace and peace to the family.

David McKee - June 07, 2013 at 11:51 AM

SA

“ My deepest sympathy for your loss. He was a wonderful man and co-worker, and he touched so many lives! God bless and comfort you during this time.

Shellie Armstrong - June 07, 2013 at 10:51 AM

HB

“ To all of Walt's family and many friends - May God bless you, keep you and draw you close to him in this time of your sorrow and grief. Walt was a blessing to many people and we will remember him with love and gratitude.

Helen Bass - June 07, 2013 at 10:32 AM

SM

“ Walter and family, our prayers are with you. May God bless you and keep you now and in the days ahead.
Thomas and Susan Mott

Susan Mott - June 07, 2013 at 10:00 AM

JG

“ Walt and Cynthia...Nancy and I send our sincerest condolences to you and your family upon the passing of your dad. Walt was a close friend and colleague, and will be sorely missed. His record of teaching and service at SHSU will no doubt be a source of pride for you and your children, as well as an inspiration to the faculty of the University. Our thoughts and prayers will be with you Saturday, and we know you will be strengthened by the love and respect of family and friends who will be there to support you, as well as the many wonderful memories you will have of this very special man. Jim and Nancy Goodwin

James & Nancy Goodwin - June 07, 2013 at 09:39 AM

JS

“ Dear Walter,

I am so saddened to hear of the passing of your dad. Please know you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. My family thinks often of you and your family. It is a long running "joke" or common knowledge in my family that my mom always wanted me to "marry Walter Bennett" and the reason was because he had such nice parents. So true, so very true!

J. J. Peterson Slowinski - June 07, 2013 at 09:05 AM

CD

“ We have many fond memories of Walter from our time spent with him at Liberty High School. We would like to express condolences on behalf of the LHS class of 1956. We all have lost a dear friend.
Clyde and Minnie Davis

Clyde & Minnie Davis - June 06, 2013 at 11:07 PM

JS

“ Our deepest sympathy to the entire family. Walter was one of a kind and I called him one of my best friends for almost seventy five years.

It wasn't one of constant communication or visits, but the friendship has always been treasured. He called us in January of this year and I regret we haven't talked to him since then.

He will always be a part of my most fond memories of growing up in Sour Lake and Devers, Texas.

Thank God for the promise that Walter and Minnie are together again and in God's presence.

John and Janice Holt Scott - June 06, 2013 at 10:17 PM

RD

“ Our sincere sympathy to the Bennett Family. Walter was a fine Christian, a true gentleman, and a great friend. He will truly be missed by many. God Bless all of you.
Robert & Ruverna Dunning

Robert & Ruverna Dunning - June 06, 2013 at 07:55 PM

MH

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Bennett family during this difficult time.

Martha Snodgrass Hutchinson - June 06, 2013 at 07:22 PM

JJ

“ Dr. Bennett will be missed by so many people. He was a pleasure to work with at SHSU. My prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

God bless you, Dr. Bennett.

jeannine jacoby - June 06, 2013 at 06:10 PM

GC

“ Dr. Bennett was always one of my favorite people. He was very kind and compassionate. He will be sorely missed.

Glenda Clary - June 06, 2013 at 05:26 PM

WH

“ Walter was a great man, a man who truly lived a Christian life and a great friend. My life is better for having the privilege of knowing him. My condolences to the Bennett family. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Walter Holmes - June 06, 2013 at 04:53 PM

CC

“ *Walter was our good friend. Our condolences to the Bennett family. We will miss our occasional visits with Walter. He will be missed by everyone.*

Charles and Cindy Rex Carlow - June 06, 2013 at 04:34 PM

TH

“ *You will be missed my dear friend.*

Tolee Hanke - June 06, 2013 at 03:23 PM

CW

“ *Walter was just a wonderful colleague and true friend. He will be missed and our thoughts are with his family.*

Christopher and Nancy Wilson - June 06, 2013 at 02:31 PM

MS

“ *Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. I know what a special man Dr. Bennett was. He touched so many lives, including mine, in profound ways. He will be missed more than you know, by more people than you can imagine. Be grateful for his life and trust God to guide you through this hard time.*

Mary Anne Smith - June 06, 2013 at 12:30 PM

JJ

“ *Walt and Cynthia ~ We just wanted to express our most sincere condolences to you and the rest of the family. Dr. Bennett was probably the best example of a Christian man I have ever met. I feel so privileged to have known him (and worked with him). He was the best of the best! I know he must be very happy now though to be with his Minnie and our Lord Jesus.*

Janice and Billy Jordan - June 06, 2013 at 09:45 AM

MM

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Mr. Bennett was a true southern gentleman who brought a smile to us. His legacy will certainly live on.

Our condolences.

Mike & Sherrill McDowell

Mike & Sherrill McDowell - June 06, 2013 at 09:09 AM

BL

“ Walter was one of the finest men I have ever known, always leaving one with words of encouragement. I will miss him dearly and offer my heartfelt condolences to Walter Jr., Cynthia and the rest of the family.

Bobby Lane - June 05, 2013 at 11:26 PM

GJ

“ Dear Lord:
Hold Walter Sr. close in your arms.

Gary Joyce - June 05, 2013 at 09:45 PM

DB

“ Our deepest sympathies are extended to members of the Bennett family. Walter was a dear friend to the entire Beto family, a friendship we all cherished.

Dan and Donna Beto - June 05, 2013 at 07:29 PM

NJ

“ *Our good friend!!! Walter, how many lives you have touched! You will be missed by so many people! Never will I forget the stories you used to tell us when we lived close to you and Minnie! May you rest in Peace, my friend! Norma Dell and Jerry D. Jones of Lovelady.*

Norma Dell Jones - June 05, 2013 at 07:21 PM