



## William R. "Billy" Harrell

November 17, 1936 - October 22, 2010

### DR. WILLIAM RAYMOND "BILLY" HARRELL

Distinguished educator, mentor, loyal friend, dedicated family man, devout Christian, Billy was born on November 17, 1936 in Lampasas, Lampasas County, Texas to Frankie Lucille Byars and Raymond Travis Harrell. On October 22, 2010, Billy relinquished the earthly confines of flesh and entered his glorified body when he joined his heavenly Father during a brief stop in Seymour, Indiana.

Billy attended East Lamar High School receiving his diploma May 26, 1955. He attended Texas A&M University-Commerce (East Texas State University) and received a B.S.-Agriculture Education, 1963, Texas A&M University-Commerce (East Texas State University) M.S.-Agriculture, 1967 and University of Missouri, Columbia Ph.D.-Education (Ag Education/Ag Mechanization), 1972. While attending Texas A&M University-Commerce, Billy was a Teacher of Vocational Agriculture, Howe, Texas, 1963-'69. He conducted a local program in vocational agriculture; served as district president, secretary, and advisor; served as area president; served on area and state advanced degree checking committees; and was selected Outstanding Young Vocational Agriculture Teacher for Texas and the Southern Region, 1968.

After receiving Ph.D.-Education (Ag Education/Ag Mechanization) in 1972, Billy came to Sam Houston State University and was for 37 years, Professor of Agricultural Mechanization from 1969-2006. He also served as Department Chair from September 1985 through August 1995. Billy's greatest achievements are best measured by those he taught during his 37 years of tenure at Sam Houston State University and by friendships gained during an illustrious career in Agricultural Mechanization.

Billy was actively involved with many organizations:

Superintendent, FFA & 4-H Agricultural Mechanics Project Show, Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo.

Superintendent, Texas FFA Tractor Technician Contest, Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo.

Conducted agricultural mechanics certification workshops for Texas Education Agency to qualify agricultural science teachers to teach pre-employment laboratory courses at the secondary level.

Conducted non-credit agricultural mechanics short courses for secondary agricultural science teachers.

Developed and conducted FFA Tractor Technician Contests for the ten Texas Agricultural Sciences areas.

Developed and conducted the Area IX FFA Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event (contest).

Host the State FFA Leadership Development Events (Contests) in Agricultural Skills.

Member, Walker County Cooperative Extension Program Council.

Chair, Huntsville FFA Advisory Committee.

Member, Houston Community College Agricultural Sciences Advisory Committee.

Member, Huntsville I.S.D. Vocational Advisory Committee.

Superintendent, Walker County Fair Supervised Project Show.

He received hundreds of awards and recognitions for his outstanding leadership and dedication in Agricultural Mechanization. Professional Service and Awards received:

Texas FFA Blue and Gold Award, 2004

International Who's Who of Professionals™, 2003

NACTA (North America Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture) Teaching Fellow, 2003

Sam Houston State University Faculty Excellence in Service Award, 2002

Board of Directors, Agricultural Workers Mutual Auto Insurance Company, 2001

Hall-of-Honor, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, 1998

Superintendent, Texas FFA Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event, Texas A&M University, College Station, 1998-'99

Educator Award, Professional Ag Workers of Texas, 1998

VIP Award, National FFA, 1995

Board of Directors, National Association of Schools and Colleges of Agriculture and Renewable Resources, 1992-'95

Teacher Educator Award, Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas, 1992

NACTA John Deere Agricultural Mechanization Award, 1991

Distinguished Service Award, Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas, 1990

President Agricultural Consortium of Texas, 1989

Honorary American Farmer, National FFA, 1983

President Texas College Teachers of Agricultural Mechanization, 1981

Superintendent National FFA Agricultural Mechanics Contest, 1979-'81

Honorary Chapter Farmer, Huntsville FFA, 1976

Outstanding Young Vocational Agriculture Teacher, Texas and Southern Region, U. S. Steel Corporation, 1968

Honorary Lone Star Farmer, Texas FFA, 1967

Billy was active in furthering students' education with numerous papers, publications and educational video series:

Harrell, W. R., Effects of Knowledge of Results on Skill Acquisition in Arc Welding; (unpublished dissertation); University of Missouri, 1972.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', Feeder Pig Production, instructional unit developed for use by high school vocational teachers and published by the Instructional Materials Laboratory, University of Missouri, 1970.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', Plans for Constructing a Gooseneck Stock Trailer, developed for use in summer workshops at Sam Houston State University and published by Instructional Materials Service, Texas A&M Annex, 1974, revised 1998.

Harrell, William R., and Jacobs, Clinton O., Agricultural Power and Machinery, text, McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, 1983.

Harrell, William R., and Jacobs, Clinton O., Activity Guide for Agricultural Power and Machinery, workbook for text, McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, 1983.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', "Shielded "Stick" Metal Arc Welding-I", 35 minute educational video, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 1990.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', "Shielded "Stick" Metal Arc Welding-II", 35 minute educational video, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 1990.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', "Shielded "Stick" Metal Arc Welding-III", 35 minute

educational video, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 1990.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', "Oxy-Acetylene Welding: Safety and Introduction", 27 minute educational video, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 1990.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', "Oxy-Acetylene Welding and Brazing", 40 minute educational video, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 1990.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', "Oxy-Acetylene Cutting", 42 minute educational video, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 1990.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', "Acetylene Cylinder Safety", 20 minute educational video, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 1990.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', "Gas Tungsten Arc Welding", 47 minute educational video, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 1990.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', "Gas Metal Arc Welding", 40 minute educational video, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 1990.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', "Basic Stud Frame Construction", 38 minute educational video, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 1991.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', "Building Construction I: Foundation and Flooring", 24 minute educational video, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 1991.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', "Building Construction II: Framing", 28 minute educational video, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 1991.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', "Building Construction III: Ceiling Joists and Rafters", 33

minute educational video, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 1991.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', "Building Construction IV: Roofing", 37 minute educational video, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 1991.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', "Introduction to Welding", 28 minute educational video, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 1991.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', "Diesel Engine Maintenance: Air Intake System and Battery", 35 minute educational video, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 1991.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', "Diesel Engine Maintenance: Lubrication System" 28 minute educational video, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 1991.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', "Diesel Engine Maintenance: Valves and Cylinder Heads", 23 minute educational video, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 1991.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', "Diesel Engine Maintenance: Fuel System", 28 minute educational video, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 1991.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', "Diesel Engine Maintenance: Cooling System", 32 minute educational video, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 1991.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', "Hydraulic Pipe Bending", 25 minute educational video, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 1993.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy' and Bobby L. Moore, "Weld Test Coupon Preparation: Plate and Pipe", 25 minute educational video, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 1993.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy' and Bobby L. Moore, "Performing the SMAW 2G, 3G and 4G Weld Tests (Plate/E-6010)", 35 minute educational video, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 1993.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy' and Bobby L. Moore, "Performing the SMAW 5G Weld Test (Pipe/E-6010 & E-7018)", 26 minute educational video, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 1993.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy' and Bobby L. Moore, "Performing the SMAW 6G Weld Test (Pipe/E6010)", 20 minute educational video, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 1993.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', "Constructing Gooseneck Stock Trailers", 3 part (58, 59, and 60 minute) educational video series and 35 page manual, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 1995.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', "Diesel Engine Maintenance" DVD, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 2003.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', "Shielded Metal Arc Welding" DVD, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 2003.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', "Oxy-Acetylene Safety and Welding" DVD, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 2003.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', "Building Construction-Fundamentals" DVD, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 2003.

Harrell, W. R. 'Billy', "Gooseneck Metal Trailer Construction" DVD, Creative Educational Video, Lubbock, Texas, 2003.

Harrell, William R. and Jacobs, Clinton O., Agricultural Power and Machinery, textbook in CD format, CEV Multimedia, Lubbock, Texas, 2004

From 1990 to 2010 and well into the next generation, Dr. Harrell will forever be known across the nation on more than 25 DVD titles with CEV Multimedia which have been used to instruct more than one million students in more than 10,000 classrooms across all 50 states and in 19 countries, allowing his legacy to live on for many years to come. The family would like to give a very special thanks to Dr. Gordon Davis for his friendship and for making this possible for future students.

Preceded in death by his parents and loving wife of 47 years, Glenna Marie Anderson Harrell. Billy is survived by his wife of 5 years, Beverly Coker Harrell, daughter Mona and husband Dr. Michael Peck, daughter Ginger Harrell, granddaughters Katie and Brianna Smith, Erica Coker, Lindsey and Lacy Harding; grandson Justin Harding; his brother, Robert E. Harrell, sister in-law Nelda Coker Harrell; and nephews Ricky and wife Shirlene Harrell, and Rodney and Nelda Harrell.

He is also survived by sister-in-laws Geneva Phillips and Frances Anderson. Brother-in-law Roger Anderson and wife Ann. He is survived by step children Joey Koch and wife Stephanie, Patricia Koch and fiancé Oscar Garcia. Step grandchildren are Dylan, Caleb & Julianna Koch; Mark, Michael & Matthew Aguirre. Along with countless other friends and family whom were blessed to know him.

Visitation will be held at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home, 1700 Normal Park Drive, Huntsville, Texas 77304, on Friday, October 29, 2010 from 5:00 -8:00 p.m. Services officiated by Dr. Jon Weygandt, Dr. Marvin Cepica, Dr. Gordan Davis, Marcus Hill and Dr. Stanley Kelley will be held in the First

Baptist Church of Huntsville on October 30, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. with interment to follow immediately at Brooke Cemetery.

Pallbearers are Trae Mitchell, Karl Collins, Sammy Jones, Ricky Harrell, Rodney Harrell and Robert Cockroft. Honorary pallbearers are Sonny Sikes, Bill Jowell, Eddie Dye, Glen Shinn, Gordon Davis, David Moorman, Lon Shell, Marvin Cepica, Marcus Hill, David Kerchval, Perry Little, Bobby Lane, Ed Bowers, Kirk Edney and Deacons of First Baptist Church of Huntsville.

Billy's family would also like to honor the organizations that were near and dear to his heart which include: Sam Houston State University Agricultural Department and Staff; Sam Houston State University Agricultural Mechanics Club; Sam Houston State University Ag Alumni; The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo; Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Agriculture Mechanics Committee; San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo; National FFA Organization; "On The Move" Sunday School Class; Walker County Fair and Association, Ag Workers Mutual and CEV Multi Media, Inc.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests donations to the Billy Harrell Endowment at Sam Houston State University, Box 2537, Huntsville, Texas 77341, or First Baptist Church –Kitchen Fund, 1229 Avenue J, Huntsville, Texas 77340, ministries dear to Billy's heart.

Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at [www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com)

A special page has been set up for Dr. Harrell by Sam Houston State University. Please click here to enter the page: [Dr. Billy Harrell](#)

# Tribute Wall



“ *William R. "Billy" Harrell*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *I was a ardent student and an admirer of my favorite educator in my entire life! I went on several Ag. Related trips with Billy and was always proud to be his student and then good friends when I graduated Sam in 1980. I use to call him once a month or so until his marriage to Beverly. I just found out about his passing recently. He will be forever in my heart and mind. I respected him as much as I did my own father. Billy I will be there in heaven one day to be with you again!!*



**JW Robertson** - November 30, 2016 at 11:35 PM



“ *Dear Beverly, you know that you are in our prayers. It was a joy to work with you and Billy and see the love you had for each other and the joy and happiness that you brought to each other's lives. I will miss my dishwashing buddy at FBC. He was a strong Christian and I know that your faith will give you comfort and strength. You have many friends at Frist Baptist Church to be there when you need us. Love and prayers to you and Billy's girls and family.*

**Kathryn Nickell** - December 06, 2010 at 04:27 PM

RT

“ Dr. Harrell and I shared the very same 1st grade teacher in Lampasas Texas though he came from Adamsville. I did not learn of this until I was his student at Sam Houston in the early 70's. What a shock tonight; I sat down and googled and there he was he was and he had been on my mind. God bless you Dr. Harrell.

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**Robert Tomecek** - November 27, 2010 at 09:49 PM

HM

“ What can i say iam so sad to have heard of his passing,ive havded the honor of knowing him and his family since 1967 Ill see you in haven Dr Harrell,,,,,Whata man thank you havenly father for him , your long time freind Horace

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**Horace Manhart** - November 26, 2010 at 01:11 PM

LL

“ When I left David Bone's funeral, it hit me. I was so fortunate to have had Dr. Harrell,Dr. Jowell and Sonny Sikes along with Mr. Honeycutt. I had full intentions of going home and writing Dr. Harrell,Jowell and Mr. Sikes a sincere thank you. Well for no good reason I have now missed one of those opportunities. From parking cars at the prison rodeo, selling BBQ sandwiches, homecoming events,Ag Mech Club as well as Student Teaching block- Dr. Harrell always challenged us. When he taught it, you learned it, and you knew it for life. I just feel honored to have known him. Always the same wherever you saw him. Honor and integrity and service to the end. I will miss running into him around town. Bless your family, and thank you for sharing him with all of us for so many years.

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**Lisa Love** - November 10, 2010 at 09:59 PM

RN

“ Dear Beverly,

*You are in my prayers. Please forgive me for not responding sooner, I did not know. You and Billy made life bearable each time we were together. God bless you and remember you both remain in my heart as deeply cared about.*

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**Rose Nyimba** - November 09, 2010 at 01:38 PM

TB

“ *He was a great man and a fine educator. He will be missed.*

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**Tim Boone** - November 04, 2010 at 11:59 AM

BS

“ *Dear Beverly and family, just wanted you to know that you have been in our thoughts and prayers. Billy and all the work he did will be missed by your FBC family. Take care and God Bless.*  
*Beverly and Tommy Stewart*

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**Beverly and Tommy Stewart** - November 03, 2010 at 12:35 PM

BW

“ *Our thoughts and prayers go out to your family. Bob thought the world of Dr. Harrell! He learned a lot from him when he attended SHSU. He was also on Bob's board when he received his Master's degree. The service was very special and a wonderful tribute to such a great and giving man.*

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**Bob, Mellicent, Bobby II, Heather, Heath & Justin Wiley** - November 03, 2010 at 08:50 AM

"M

“ *The Visitation was a true celebration of Dr. Harrell's life, there was crying, laughter and stories being told. I was so glad that my wife and daughter were able to meet and consider Dr. Harrell a friend and being able to visit with the family. Emily is restoring a John Deere 320 for show and asked Mrs. Harrell if we could dedicate it to the memory of Dr. Harrell.*

*Our Prayers Are With You  
The McAlli*

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**"Mac" McAllister** - November 02, 2010 at 01:44 PM

GS

“ *Alice and I send our love, comfort and prayers to Beverly, Mona, Ginger and Billy's extended family. What a friend! What a mentor! What a leader! Dr. Harrell leaves us all in shock, but he also left a legacy of excellence in his work, dignity in his service, and respect for others. Billy was a teacher by choice and a friend to thousands. He always took time to encourage us with a smile and gentle lessons of principle and practice. Ultimately we will come to grips with Billy's passing, but Dr. Harrell's legacy lives on. Thank you, Billy, for your lifelong friendship! Glen & Alice Shinn, College Station*

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**Glen Shinn** - October 31, 2010 at 09:28 AM

JM

“ *In the Old and New Testaments are listed names of Godly men living by example. A modern day translation of the Bible could surely have Billy's listed as well. If Webster's dictionary also listed example names beside definitions of true friend, neighbor, teacher, mentor, colleague, servant leader and other positive attributes, I sure Billy's name could be listed as well. My God grant his Gracy, Mercy and Peace to family and friends who mourn Billy's death, yet Celebrate both his Earthly Life and now his Eternal Life.*

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**Joe Muller** - October 31, 2010 at 08:48 AM

PS

“ Beverly, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Happiness was what Billy brought to you and I know you are feeling a great loss. I am thankful you had the opportunity to know such happiness though! Think of your many happy memories and blessings in your life together. I pray God keeps you strong and lifts you up. My condolences to all the family. He was a man who touched many lives, I am sure.

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**Pat Shoemate** - October 30, 2010 at 11:35 PM

EH

“ Beverly and family: I am so sorry for your loss. You are in my prayers. Although I really didn't know your husband and I only met him the one time when you were visiting back in Edna I could tell that you were very happy. I trust and pray that God will give you strength during this time. From what I have read he touched many, many lives during his lifetime and he will be missed greatly - not only the lives he touched but most of all his loving family. May God comfort each of you during the days ahead.

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**Elaine Hudson** - October 30, 2010 at 02:32 PM

WW

“ Billy Harrell was a true example of the old statement, "He was a gentleman and a scholar".

*The field of Agriculture Sciene has lost a great friend and leader. I graduated from Sam Houston in 1962/64. I never had Dr. Harrell in class, but my two sons, Bill and John, knew him as a great educator and friend. He truly cared for his students and helped them in many ways.*

*As human beings we seldom meet anyone as caring and dynamic as Dr. Harrell. I know that my boys, myt wife and I are better human beings for haaving known Dr. Bllly Harrell. We share your loss and will always remember this kind gentleman that gave so much to so many.*

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**William T. Woody** - October 30, 2010 at 12:54 PM

BA

“ Words can not describe the influence Dr. Harrell had on my teaching career, and life. He always made time for my questions, listen to me in times of hardship, and was a true friend. To the family, I wish that I could make the trip to Huntsville, but as fate would have it, I had my appendix out Monday. My warden (my new nickname for my wife) has told me it would not be wise. My family's thoughts are with you.

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**Ben D Alley** - October 29, 2010 at 10:17 PM

CW

“ To the Family of Billy Harrell: We join you all in mourning the loss of a good man, a highly respected teacher, a friend to all that knew him, and a man of character, integrity, and Godly Wisdom. I've never heard a negative word toward Billy Harrell.

*The world is full of both winners and losers, but in my thoughts, Billy Harrell was a winner, and is now reaping his earthly rewards from our Heavenly Father. Be proud and continue to follow in the paths that you traveled and enjoyed during his presence with us here. God Bless You All.*

*Colvin Walker, Madisonville*

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**Colvin Walker** - October 29, 2010 at 09:07 PM

JD

“ *Dr. Harrell joins the many immortals that have left their mark on Agricultural Education. His intellect, calm manner, and gentle good humor made him a man to admire and respect. We should all be as lucky to have touched the lives of so many in such a positive manner. Billy, God bless you and thank you.*

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**Joe Dettling** - October 29, 2010 at 06:52 PM

MA

“ *You meet people in your life that you want to be like, that person has some quality that you don't or a quality you need improvement on. Dr Harrell was one of those special people that you want to emulate. No matter how many guys were around him all asking questions when he talked to you you knew you had his undivided attention. You knew he was talking just to you and could get his point across better than most teachers I ever had. Simply put He cared about you as an individual. He will be missed. God Bless You Billy Harrell*

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**Mike Armstrong** - October 29, 2010 at 05:05 PM

LS

“ God bless and rest in peace Billy. You left a profound mark on the world and you will be missed. We will miss you as a friend and neighbor. Our deepest sympathy to your family for the loss, Billy is now at rest in a better place with Glena.

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**Lee & Peggy Struble** - October 29, 2010 at 04:48 PM

GC

“ To the family of Dr. Harrell,

*I want you to know my thoughts and prayers are with your family. Dr. Harrell touched many lives including mine, he was an amazing man and educator. I am proud to have known him and have the opportunity to learn from him in the shop. I am honored to have called him a mentor and friend.*

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**Glenn Clinard** - October 29, 2010 at 04:44 PM

AW

“ I have always been interested in Ag-Mechanics and when I was visiting Universities trying to decide between Texas A&M and SHSU I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Harrell. I will never forget he put his arm around me and told me about the Ag-Mech program at SHSU. He discussed the small class sizes and how it was like a family at SHSU. He also, discussed with me a job program to clean the shop so I could afford to go to college. He was one of the reasons I chose SHSU and am proud that it is my "Alma Mater". Many of the successes that I have had in my career today can be attributed to the skills that he taught me. Dr. Harrell was a perfectionist and taught me that 1/4 of an inch out of square on a 24 ft. trailer was not acceptable. Also, I will never forget how he could run a 7018 rod on a vertical up weld with the best weave pattern you have ever seen. It should be noted that he taught across the disciplines this could be seen when he taught us how to figure concrete or how to figure gain when bending a trailer bow. He had an almost magic touch when it came to his knowledge of tractors and engines which can be seen by the many tractors that were restored in the farm shop. The University System has truly lost one of its super stars, he will be greatly missed.

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**August Wunderlich** - October 29, 2010 at 02:29 PM

DS

“ On behalf of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Ag Mechanics Committee, we are deeply saddened by the passing of Dr. Harrell. Our thoughts and prayers are with Beverly and family. Dr. Harrell enjoyed seeing people succeed and he has helped so many to reach their goals whether they were students, friends or colleagues. He has done a lot for our committee and although he will be missed, the HLSR Ag Mechanincs committee will continue to promote Dr. Harrell's ideals, values and passion for Ag Mechanics. Thank you Dr. Harrell for everything you have done and for making the world a better place.

David Stratton  
Chairman Ag Mechanics Committee

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David Stratton - October 29, 2010 at 11:48 AM

JS

“ Beverly and Family - Billy lived his passion with his love for his students in his teaching career. He was a major influence in the AG-Mech show that we started at Blinn College in Brenham. I looked forward to judging and working with him at the shows that we judged together each Spring. He will be irreplaceable at the AG-Mech shows and contests across the country. When we were at these shows, he always knew where the best restaurants were in each city. We will miss him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

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Johnnie and Marilyn Schroeder - October 29, 2010 at 11:06 AM

R'

“ I had the pleasure of taking Intro to Ag Mechanics with Dr. Harrell. He was truly a great man. My condolences go out to his family and friends. God Bless you, Dr. Harrell. You will be missed.

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Ron Crisp (SHSU class of '99) - October 29, 2010 at 10:52 AM

AC

“ It was a pleasure meeting Dr. Harrell, if only it were twice. Though I've heard a tremendous amount of great things about him, and have seen his generosity in giving back to the university where he has such a reputable status. I pray he rest in peace. My sympathies and prayers are also with the family, especially Ginger, Mona, Bri, and Katie. God bless.

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**Amanda Crowley** - October 29, 2010 at 09:28 AM

SF

“ So Sorry to hear about Dr. Harrell's passing. My prayers are with the family. I thought alot of him even though I never met him. He has sure been an asset to my FFA Chapter through his CEV Video Series. I am sure he will be missed not only by his family, but also the whole Agriculture family across the nation. Steve Stigall  
Clarksburg Tennessee FFA Advisor

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**Steve Stigall Clarksburg TN FFA** - October 28, 2010 at 11:19 PM

GC

“ I received my introduction to ag mechanics while attending Sam Houston State. Some of my classes were taught by Dr. Eddie Dye. Later I attended the University of Missouri majoring in Ag. Ed. and Ag. Engineering (Ag. Mechanics). Dr. C. Weston was my advisor. I finished my course work just as Billy Harrell was beginning his studies at Mizzou. During the years that followed I would occasionally see him at the National FFA Ag. Mechanics contest. I remember one time when Billy stopped by to see the new Ag. Mechanics lab I was developing. He was very complimentary and offered much encouragement. In recent years I have been privileged to serve as a judge for the JAM project show at the San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo. I had the opportunity to work with Dr. Harrell as we chose the Grand and Reserve Champions for the show---this was usually late at night. Billy was “a mover and a shaker” in the field of Ag. Mechanics. The Ag. Education community has lost a great leader.

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**Gaward Caveness** - October 28, 2010 at 10:11 PM

WJ

“ Ginger, our prayers and condolences or with you and your family at this much needed time.

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**Wayne and Diane Johnson** - October 28, 2010 at 09:46 PM

JR

“ It has been my pleasure to work with Billy for so many years on the Ag-Mechanic show. I have seen the results of his efforts for the children and their programs. Billy also helped me with the Fort Bend County Ag-Mechanic show. He has judged it for many years. We will miss him not only as a friend, but what he stood for. His contributions to education were many and helped so many individuals to succeed. His legacy will live on through the Ag-Mechanic committee. We will miss seeing him there, but I will wager that he will be there in spirit. My condolences to Beverly and his daughters.

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**Joe Rome** - October 28, 2010 at 08:38 PM

JG

“ Dr. Harrell is remembered by our entire family as a man of integrity, honor, knowledge and of course as a man with a great big grin on his face every time he was encountered. May your family find comfort and peace in our Saviour, Jesus Christ; just like Dr. Harrell has. His memory will be forever treasured.

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**Jennifer (George) Guillory & Donald Guillory** - October 28, 2010 at 04:49 PM

RB

“ As it has been said, this world has lost a truly wonderful man, teacher and mentor. I was privileged to meet Dr. Harrell in 1982 when I first went to Sam Houston and saw from the beginning what a great friend should be. My Dad knew Dr. Harrell when they were in school back in Paris, Texas, and he always told me what a good friend Dr. Harrell was. I will always think back to the great times we had in the farm shop and tractor lab with Dr. Harrell, Dr. Jowell and Mark Jackson. Those were great times and memories. Dr. Harrell was a man who was never too busy to listen to anyone no matter how busy he might be. I am so thankful that I got to see him just a couple of weeks ago as I passed through Huntsville and gave him a call and we met up if only for a few minutes. God bless all of his family during this time of grief, but know we will see him again.

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**Ronny Booth** - October 28, 2010 at 03:51 PM

DP

“ May God bless you as He welcomes you home to His heavenly kingdom. I am blessed and thankful to have known Dr. Harrell as a teacher, colleague, mentor, friend, and a master of his craft. How fortunate so many of us are to have been molded into who we are, at least in part, by Dr. Harrell's gifts of knowledge, expertise, wisdom, gentleness, and kindness. Thank you for touching a countless number of lives in such a positive way.

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**Dwayne Pavelock** - October 28, 2010 at 03:46 PM

DM

“ Ginger, we are so sorry for you and your family. What an accomplished man! God's Peace, The McLeod Family - Galveston

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**Doug and Joan McLeod** - October 28, 2010 at 03:25 PM

MV

“ DR. HARRELL HAD A HUGE INFLUENCE IN MY LIFE AND ME AS A PERSON. HE TAUGHT BY EXAMPLE, I HAD THE PRIVELEDGE TO GET TO KNOW HIM AWAY FROM SCHOOL, LIKE TRAVELING WITH HIM IN HIS CAR TO NATIONAL CONVENTION AS A VOLUNTEER MYSELF. GREAT MAN! IF YOU EVER HAVE RECEIVED AN EMAIL FROM ME I END THEM ALL WITH "TREAT OTHERS AS YOU WOULD WANT TO BE TREATED" I CAN SAY HE IMPRINTED THAT IN MY MIND FROM EXAMPLE AND I TRY TO DO THE SAME. WHEN I HAD HIM AS A TEACHER AND WORKED UNDER HIM AS GRADUATE STUDENT I KNEW WHEN HE GOT LOUDER AND SAID "EVERYBODY COME HERE", WE WERE GOING TO LEARN SOMETHING SO LISTEN. "TEACHABLE MOMENTS" HE WILL BE MISSED AND I AM AMAISING HOW MANY HE INFLUENCED AND TOUCHED AFTER READING THESE CONDOLENCES. I WILL REMEMBER HIM AS HE WAS WHEN I SHAKED HIS HAND AT THE STATE FAIR A FEW WEEKS AGO, HAPPY AND DOING WHAT HE LOVED. THIS WORLD LOST DR. HARRELL PHYSICALLY BUT HE IS STILL HERE IN ALL OF US! WE LOVE YA DR. HARRELL REST IN PEACE MY FRIEND AND MENTOR. MARK VITTERS CORSICANA TEXAS

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**MARK VITTERS** - October 28, 2010 at 02:16 PM

DW

“ To Beverly, family, and friends,

*Please know that I deeply respect Billy Harrell and always will. He has been an excellent mentor and friend. I will miss him.*

*Many see humans as physical beings with a hint of a spiritual side, but I see us all as spiritual beings occupying a physical body for a brief time. With this in mind, I believe the spirit of Billy Harrell will be enriching the lives of many for centuries to come. Thanks be to God.*

*I deeply regret that I will be out of town for the visitation and services, but please know my prayers are with you and Billy.*

*May we all find peace with God and fellow man, through Jesus Christ.*

*With love and admiration,  
Dwayne*

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**Dwayne** - October 28, 2010 at 01:27 PM

PD

“ *Dr. Harrell touched my life and was a great influence to me, as a person and Agriculture Science teacher. Role model, Mentor and advisor. He was one of the best men I have known.*

*He will be missed. My thoughts are with him and his family.*

*Phillip Dorman-SHSU '82  
AST Kingwood H.S. 1982-2001*

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**Phillip Dorman** - October 28, 2010 at 01:02 PM

AH

“ I never met Billy Harrell but I have shown Several of his videos to my students.He is a good teacher.time I always wondered if mabe we were related, since we both have the same last name.I also teach Agriculture Education at John Marshall High In Okla. City. My thoughts and prayers are with your family. Aaron Harrell

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**Aaron Harrell** - October 28, 2010 at 12:50 PM

WT

“ Dr. Harrell, we will miss you. To your precious wife Beverly and family, we send our deepest sympathy and condolences. He was a wonderful and gentle man. He judged our students many times at the Rusk County Youth Project Show and always with patience and a smile. Our prayers go with you. Wayne and Nita Taylor, Superintendant Rusk County Youth Project Show, Henderson, Texas

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**Wayne & Nita Taylor** - October 28, 2010 at 12:13 PM

JE

“ Beverly, family and friends: It is so hard for me to come up with the right words to let you know exactly what Billy has meant to me. His love of his work, family, friends and students was so completely evident in his cheery attitude. His commitment to the High School & College young people of Texas has been far reaching. Those of us lucky enough to serve along with him on the Agricultural Mechanics Committee at HLS&R since 1974(before HLS&R) will never forget the wealth of knowledge and insight that he possessed. God has blessed me by allowing me to call him my friend. He and I have been close for quite some time since he became the chair of the Agricultural Mechanics Committee at the HLS&R. Actually I met Billy while still at A&M in 1973. He, Paul Chilen, and Ted Ford helped me to understand the reasons for the Tractor Mechanics Contest then held in FT. Worth, Texas. We felt close enough to discuss family, friends, and loves. He has really helped me to grow and understand what joy there is in giving back to the youth of Texas. I will miss him a lot. The State Agricultural Technicians Contest will not be the same without Billy Harrell! John D. Evans

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**John D. Evans** - October 28, 2010 at 11:49 AM

MH

“ My thoughts and prayers are with your family. Dr. Harrel was a wonderful teacher and will surely be missed. He was a positive influence to so many people and will continue to do so. He is and always will be a legend!

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**Mike Clifford AST Donna HS** - October 28, 2010 at 10:46 AM

JB

“ Mona you are in my thoughts and prayers. Dr Harrell will truly be missed by many. God Bless you and your Family.

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**Jamie Batten** - October 28, 2010 at 10:35 AM

BW

“ Please accept my condolences for your loss. I am deeply saddened with the passing of Dr. Harrell as he was a positive influence in my years at Sam Houston (1984-87) and throughout my tenure as Hillsboro Agriscience teacher (1987-present). To me, Dr. Harrell always modeled patience, kindness and the pursuit of excellence.

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**Bill Woody** - October 28, 2010 at 10:19 AM

MF

“ Dr. Harrell was an inspiration in the classroom and in life. I am thankful for the opportunities he provided and will miss his kind words of encouragement. We pray for your friends and family, rest in peace.

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**Monica Patrick and Family** - October 28, 2010 at 10:07 AM

WH

“ I learned more from Dr. Harrell in each conversation, meeting or workshop than I could ever learn in any normal classroom! He had one of the greatest minds of his time and will be truly missed by all of us that learned so much from him. I will keep all of his family and friends in my prayers, and each time lightning strikes and thunder rolls I will know it is Dr. Harrell striking an arc.

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**Warren Beard, AST, Hondo** - October 28, 2010 at 09:25 AM

JF

“ I have had the honor of personally knowing Dr. Harrell for 10 plus years. However, long before I met this great man he stepped into my classroom and helped me teach young men and women learn to weld by watching his videos. When my chapter began to compete in Ag Mechanics shows his familiar face helped my students relax. I had one student come to me one time very excited, He was acting like he had seen the President However, it was Dr. Harrell. He was a celebrity to my kids. When working with Dr. Harrell at shows or at workshops he always put students 1st. He displayed his love for our Lord in all I witnessed. He will be very missed. On behalf of the Vega FFA, we would like to offer our sincere condolences to Beverly and his Family. Words will never be enough to Thanks you for sharing Dr. Harrell with us. Thanks Dr. Harrell for everything, you have helped to change the face of the Vega FFA and for that we are truly thankful. Rest in Peace our dear friend.

Jay Newton  
Vega FFA Advisor

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**Jay Newton - Vega FFA** - October 28, 2010 at 09:10 AM

BL

“ It was with great pleasure and truly an honor to have known such a great educator, man, and even a better person. For all the men that knew him was touched by him in a special way. He will forever be remembered and honored by myself and many more. He will be sorely missed by us all. My condolences to all of his family. His memory and impact on my agriculture profession will live on. May God be with you all in these times of grief and sadness for your loss.

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**Bobby Ledbetter** - October 28, 2010 at 09:06 AM

JG

“ Our deepest condolences for your loss.  
Ginger you are always in our thoughts and prayers

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**Jim & Sina Gibson** - October 28, 2010 at 08:49 AM

CS

“ My condolences to the family of Dr. Harrell. He was a very kind and gracious man. Dr. Harrell and the other professors at the Ag Department were my family away from home. As a 17 year old coming from a small town, I would have been overwhelmed if not for the mentoring of Dr. Harrell and his colleagues. His sacrifice and dedication has impacted more lives than anyone could ever know. Thank you Dr. Harrell.

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**Charles Sturrock** - October 27, 2010 at 10:36 PM

BO

“ Dr. Harrell was a true blessing to all who were fortunate enough to cross his path. Dr. Harrell first came into my life when I was a student at Huntsville High School, and I do not remember a time since when he has not been around. He was a tremendous teacher, mentor and friend. I consider it an honor to have worked with him in local activities and through Huntsville ISD Advisory Committees. He will truly be missed, but never forgotten.

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**Brenda Germany Oates** - October 27, 2010 at 07:04 PM

SF

“ On behalf of both the Forsythe family and Lampasas County community, I wanted to send our love and prayers. Dr. Harrell was a friend and mentor to me for many years as well as thousands of young people and adults. He left a tremendous mark on all he meet.He will be missed by all whom he touched in his daily walk as friend, teacher, mentor, and christian.  
Steve Forsythe

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**Steve Forsythe** - October 27, 2010 at 04:44 PM

LW

“ Dr. Harrell will be greatly missed. He truly impacted my life as a professor and I will be forever grateful to him. He was a wonderful person that I will always remember. Rest in peace Dr. Harrell.

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**Leah Wright** - October 27, 2010 at 03:58 PM

BD

“ It was such an honor to have known Dr Harrell these past 7 years. We were so saddened to hear of his passing, and pray for you and the family. He touched so many lives, in so many ways. Having known and worked with him was such a blessing. His lessons, and his encouragement, will never be forgotten.

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**Billy Wayne & Cathy Denison** - October 27, 2010 at 03:37 PM

EF

“ On behalf of the East Central FFA we are sadden by your lost. All of the Agricultural Science programs of Texas and the United States where better because of his dedication to our programs. We lift you up in prayer.

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**East Central FFA** - October 27, 2010 at 03:00 PM

SF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. And we hope that Mona will receive positive news on her test results!

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**Stanton FFA** - October 27, 2010 at 02:21 PM

JM

“ Dr. Harrell was not only a professor to us but a close friend. He taught us great things about agriculture and ag mech, but more importantly he taught us about integrity and love for our job and our students. He was a teacher of life as well as agriculture. We hope someday our students will look back on us with the same respect and love as we had for Dr. Harrell. Dr. Harrell will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with Beverly and Family. ~Jake and Mandi Muller

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**Jake and Mandi Muller** - October 27, 2010 at 02:11 PM

SR

“ I and so many others were truly touched by Dr. Harrell. I have no idea how many students crossed his path during the course of his life but somehow he seemed to remember us. I count my time in the SHSU Ag program as one of the best of my life and was very lucky to have been influenced by so many good people including Dr. Harrell.

*I am proud to have known him and will miss seeing him in my world. My heart goes out to his family and friends in their loss.*

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**Sherry Chambliss Richardson** - October 27, 2010 at 01:52 PM

LT

“ I, like countless others have been blessed by having known Dr. Harrell first as a student then as a colleague. His caring nature and desire to help was unmatched, and of course- so was his knowledge.  
He was truly one of those people who made you feel better for having known him.  
Our prayers are with his family in their loss.

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**Lance Thomas** - October 27, 2010 at 01:13 PM

DG

“ My heart goes out to the family at this time of loss. Dr. Harrell touched so lives over the years. He was an inspiration to anyone and everyone who spent anytime with him. It has been almost 30 years since I graduated SHSU and even after that many years he would see me and greet me by name even though I didn't see him that often. I believe he could teach anybody at any level. He had a way of relating things to everyone. He will be greatly missed though out the Agriculture Science world as well as every where else.

*Dana Griffin  
Class of 1982*

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**Dana Griffin** - October 27, 2010 at 12:55 PM

AG

“ Beverly and family -

*What a joy to have known Dr. Harrell and the impact of his life through the SHSU Agriculture Department as a student, as a resident of Huntsville and family friend at First Baptist. May the peace of Christ sustain you and the love and support friends and family comfort you through these upcoming days, weeks and onward. You all are in my prayers!*

*Love, Angie*

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**Angie Gillikin** - October 27, 2010 at 12:00 PM

ML

“ Beverly and family: my heartfelt condolences on your loss of dear Billy. I'm glad I got to know him and was able to work with him during the hurricanes. Although the work was rough, it made it easy knowing Billy would be there with his sense of humor and calmness.

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**Marjolein Lemmon** - October 27, 2010 at 11:10 AM

RE

“ There are no words to express what I am feeling right now. There are very few people that gives so unselfishly as Billy. He was the true reflection of God's hand and feet, here on this earth. You will be sorely missed! Beverly, my love is with you during this time.

---

**Rebecca** - October 27, 2010 at 09:16 AM

RL

“ On behalf of the San Antonio Ag. Mechanics Contest Committee, I would like to say what a honor and privilege it has been to get to know Dr. Harrell and his wife as they worked here at the San Antonio show judging and visiting with the participants while at our show. Dr. Harrell was a leader in his field and it showed no matter what he undertook to do. He was gracious to all he met and I am glad I got to know him a little better when he invited me to Houston to help judge the Ag. Mechanics show there. From all those he has touched thru his many years teaching to those he continued to influence thru the shows he was involved with, he will be missed. Thank you for all the wonderful teachers you have helped so they can continue on. What a great legacy he leaves behind.  
Rick Laden, Chairman of the Ag. Mechanics Show in San Antonio and all the committee members who will miss him greatly.

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**Rick Laden** - October 27, 2010 at 08:52 AM

JK

“ I did not necisarily know Dr. Harrell personaly, but i have interacted with him for the past 6 years of my life. I saw him many times throughout the years at shows all over texas. He has judged most every project i ever produced. My hogh school ag teacher Brian Harlan was one of his students at SHSU. He always came and said hello to us and had a few words with us outside of judging. Its goin to be rough without him there this coming year. Without him i would not have some of the opportunities i had offered to me. I have a great deal of respect for Dr. Harrell and will forever remember him.

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**Joshua Knott** - October 27, 2010 at 12:31 AM

SF

“ Words. Sometimes words are not adequate to express how we feel about something when it happens; this seems like one of those times. What is the right word or words in this case? Grief? Pain? Sorry? Despair? I've felt an almost palpable emptiness since hearing of Dr. Harrell's passing. I think Romans 8:26-27 says it better than any words I can think to write, so I wont. Besides we all know how we feel about losing him, whether we can put it in words or not. Instead, let's just look at the positive.

*Look at the terms people have used to describe Dr. H. - teacher, advisor, mentor, coach, friend, role model, counselor, Christian and I am sure there are many others that I missed. Powerful stuff. Fitting, because he was a powerful guy. I think nearly every student that ever had him, nearly every person that ever called him "friend" thought that they were among his most favorite of students or friends, or maybe both. We know that really isn't possible, or is it? With Billy Harrell I wouldn't rule out anything.*

*Someone mentioned Doc calling them by name 30 or 35 years after they were in his class. I was always amazed that no matter where we ran into Dr. Harrell; be it Huntsville, Houston or San Antonio ...wherever, he was quick to call us by name, give my wife a big hug and ask about the kids. I was so happy that he was still teaching at SHSU when our oldest majored in ag. there so that she could experience some of the magic that we had encountered by knowing one Billy Harrell.*

*If it is true that "The Measure of a Life is its Service", then Dr. Billy Harrell has no doubt measured up very well. We will all miss him terribly. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Beverly and family in this time of sorrow.*

*Stephen '77 & '78, Donna '77 and Sara Rogers '06 & '08*

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**Stephen Rogers family** - October 26, 2010 at 10:18 PM

BL

“ I will always remember and appreciate Billy for the lessons he taught me, both in the classroom and the workplace. He worked tirelessly for his students and always held them to high standards. He demanded that his students work hard and study diligently, and he led as an example that few could match. I've never met anyone as committed to his profession as Billy Harrell. He was a great teacher, colleague and friend to me and many others. The world was a better place with Billy Harrell in it. God bless.

---

**Bobby Lane** - October 26, 2010 at 07:37 PM

PB

“ Dr. Harrell and my father are the two main reasons that I am a teacher. I have known Dr. Harrell all of my life since he grew up close to my fathers family. I have never known anyone so dedicated to his craft. I have been blessed to have had Dr. Harrell as my mentor and friend. The hours that we spent talking about teaching and agriculture mechanics will always be in my heart.

*In the past 27 years I talk about Dr. Harrell "The Man of Magic" I tell my students that I knew a man who could tune a tractor with a broom handle and a screwdriver and with the other hand set the points on a small engine. At least that is my story and I am sticking to it.*

*I will miss Dr. Harrell. The agriculture science program in the State of Texas and this nation has lost a man that cannot be replaced. He will always be in my heart, my mind and my prayers.*

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**Paul Booth** - October 26, 2010 at 07:05 PM

GC

“ Dr. Harrell was my advisor and professor at SHSU during the late 70's. He said what do you want to do son. What are you passionate about. I told him I want to be a farmer like my dad. He said come to my office and lets talk. We made a degree plan and a life plan. He changed my life that day. This man had a passion for helping and mentoring students just like me. I'm sure He helped hundreds more the same way. He would always surprise me remembering my name 30 years after graduation. He would remember details about your life and friends and classes we had. You could see him at a show or on the street and he would say HEY GARY HOW'S OLE JIM BOB or JOHNNY BOY DO'IN. He would come to our county show and judge our Ag Mech division. The way he would talk to every student, last place or first, you could tell He truly cared about each one. God must have needed a world class Ag Mech judge and teacher. He is one of my life heroes and He will be sorely missed. Gary Conn Hearne, Tx.

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**Gary Conn** - October 26, 2010 at 06:11 PM

BW

“ We will miss our dear, sweet friend. Our love and prayers are with each of you.

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**Bob & Sandy Welker** - October 26, 2010 at 06:08 PM

RJ

“ Billy made a difference in everything in which he was involved. To say he will be missed is an understatement. Billy was a "giver" in every sense of the word. He and Beverly have been vital members of our Sunday School class at First Baptist Church for many years. They could both be counted on when ANYTHING needed to be done. Billy simply can't be replaced. He left this community a better place than he found it. Our heartfelt condolences to Beverly, Mona and Ginger.

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**Robert & Jere'** - October 26, 2010 at 04:46 PM

KM

“ My deepest sympathy to the family of Dr. Harrell. He was one of the most hard working, soft spoken, caring men I have ever known. When Dr. Harrell was your friend, you had a wonderful friend for life! He always took the time for anyone that ever needed him. He was a great teacher that will forever be the face of SHSU Ag. Mechanics. We are all better people for knowing Dr. Billy Harrell.

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**Kevin Maxwell** - October 26, 2010 at 03:46 PM

JK

“ He was truly a leader in agriculture. I remember his attendance at a state ag teacher's conference in Ft. Worth caused him to stay later than expected without lodging. He stayed with myself and two other Ag teachers and he slept on the couch. I mentioned a desire to start my master's degree. He spent all night convincing me to attend SHSU, a choice I never regretted; taking every course he taught. He asked me to assist at the National FFA Convention, which I did a few times. He was a true example of an excellent teacher, mentor, and he truly loved what he did. I will always remember Dr. Harrell.

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**Jackie Kirkwood** - October 26, 2010 at 02:43 PM

LS

“ Phyllis and I are deeply saddened. Our prayers go out to Beverly and family. Billy will long be remembered for his outstanding leadership in Agriculture Education, especially Agriculture Mechanics, not only in Texas but throughout the Nation. He certainly left a legacy with the Houston Agriculture Mechanics Project Show and Tractor Contest. He was respected and loved by students, teachers and colleagues all over Texas and the United States. He was a good friend.

*Lon and Phyllis Shell*

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**Lon R. Shell** - October 26, 2010 at 02:03 PM

DS

“ God needed an Ag Mech angel, so He called Billy home. Billy touched so many lives in so many different ways while God shared him with us. We will miss his smile and his passion for education. Our prayers are with with Beverly, Ginger, Mona, and the rest of the Harrell family.

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**David & Mary Lou Shelton** - October 26, 2010 at 01:24 PM

KS

“ Dr. Harrell was a great man, professor and mentor. You will be missed Dr. Harrell. I am thankful you were in my life, and I am a better person for knowing you. It will be strange next October without you in Dallas.

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**Karla Sikes** - October 26, 2010 at 01:17 PM

ST

“ Beverly, family and friends:

*It is so hard for me to come up with the right words to let you know exactly what Dr. Harrell has meant to me. His love of his work, family, friends and students was so completely evident by the smile on his face. His commitment to the youth of Texas was far reaching. Those of us that were lucky enough to serve along with him on the Agricultural Mechanics Committee at HLSR will never forget the wealth of knowledge that he possessed. God has richly blessed me by allowing me to call him friend.*

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**Susan Terry-Wilhelm** - October 26, 2010 at 11:47 AM

JA

“ My sympathy and condolences go to the Dr. Billy Harrell family. The world has been a better place, because Dr. Harrell was a part of it. The number of lives he has influenced is too many to count, I am very proud to have been one of the lucky ones who got to know this great man. He truly believed in his student and encouraged them to follow their dreams. He is the reason I am proud to say I am a SHSU graduate. He will be missed.

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**Jeffrey Anderson** - October 26, 2010 at 11:09 AM

ML

“ It is with a heavy heart that we offer our sincere prayers to the family of Dr. Harrell. For nearly 22-years, I have personally have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Harrell in a very personal setting. As so many have expressed, Billy was an educator of young people and the lives he has touched have been so many. With such a broad spectrum of good deeds Billy performed one flawlessly and that was one of a caring person to his fellow-man. God has called on a true teacher of his flock and Billy will do just that. I am sure the 'shop' in heaven was needing a little attention. You will live in our hearts and efforts Dr. Harrell. Peace to you and your family.

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**Mr. & Mrs. Jerrett V. Lamb** - October 26, 2010 at 10:32 AM

RS

“ To put into words how Dr. Harrell influenced my life is impossible. Having known him has made me a better teacher and a better person. I hope that I can have the positive influence on my students that he had on everyone he came into contact with and knew. It was a privilege to call him my friend. God bless the Harrell family in your loss. Richard Smith, AST Latexo

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**Richard Smith** - October 26, 2010 at 10:14 AM

JR

“ I was one of the many that Dr. Harrell influenced. He motivated and encouraged me to continue. He was one of my early mentors. I am better because I knew him. He had that effect on many. He taught me to expect great things from my students because he expected great things from us. He will be missed.

---

**James Rice** - October 26, 2010 at 08:06 AM

TP

“ *Beverly and Family:*  
Thank you for sharing Dr. Harrell with all of us. Billy was a great professor to me and to my three sons, Wesley, Tommy, and Robert. We always felt so fortunate to have had him for a teacher, but more fortunate to have had him for a friend. Dianne and I enjoyed our short visit at Homecoming. We will miss Billy at all the events during the year. He was a great man and good friend. He had a very positive influence on my whole family and on so many others. Tom Paben

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**Tom Paben** - October 25, 2010 at 11:00 PM

DT

“ *Dr. Billy Harrell was a leader, teacher, mentor, a role model for us all and a master as his craft. He taught us many skills that we shared with high school students and adults all over this state. The major livestock shows will miss his leadership as he served as a leader for their Agriculture Mechanics shows. Billy Harrell continued to pay forward until the final day of his life.*

*My God bless the Harrell family as you celebrate his life.*

*Dale Thomas (Ag. Teacher, School Administrator & Retired ESC 9 Adm.)*

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**Dale Thomas** - October 25, 2010 at 10:31 PM

MC

“ I have known and respected Dr. Billy Harrell for many years. He is known as "Mr. Ag Mechanics" for the State of Texas and his influence has transcended the country. In addition to his vast knowledge of mechanized agriculture (and many other subjects) he was a wise and gentle man, a master teacher and a beloved role model, a friend and a leader, a kind and caring person, an individual who placed every person ahead of himself, a person we all wish to emulate. He was a person that just made you feel good when you were around him. We will dearly miss you Billy! Sincerely, MJ Cepica

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**MJ Cepica** - October 25, 2010 at 09:47 PM

LB

“ I was very lucky to attend Sam Houston State University in the early 70's where there was a group of agriculture professors that helped build a foundation for life that I still carry with me today. Dr. Billy Harrell tops that list of people that influenced my life. We both go to First Baptist Church in Huntsville and as the congregation greets each other every Sunday morning, I always looked forward to seeing him and Beverly. I will truly miss this gentle, kind man but I take heart that he is with our Savior Jesus Christ.

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**Lynn Boone** - October 25, 2010 at 09:14 PM

LL

“ Wow what can I say that hasn't already been said? Except that Dr. Harrell I will miss you and that FFA convention, teacher's conference, and HLSR ag mech will not be the same. Our condolences to all the family and thank you Beverly for insisting that Rusty Mertink and I take a picture with him at Galveston.

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**Larry and April Langford** - October 25, 2010 at 07:02 PM

MD

“ Dr. Harrell, you touch the lives of so many of us Ag Majors at Sam Houston not to say the unselfish Dedication to the National FFA Organization, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo as well as local organizations. You will be missed by all who you lives you touched but never forgotten. My deepest sympathy to the Harrell family in your loss. RIP Dr. Harrell.

Miles Dollinger - October 25, 2010 at 06:57 PM

GV

“ Dr. Harrell was one of the finest men I have ever met. He had a tremendous influence on me as a student and later as a teacher. He was truly a man who was gifted with a passion for life and lived it to the fullest doing what he loved. May God Bless all the members of his family.

Gary A. Vos - October 25, 2010 at 06:35 PM

AW

“ Our condolences go out to you, Beverly, Roma, Ginger, and other family members. You are in our prayers. Dr. Billy Harrell was a great man, and greatly to be emulated. He was also a great friend. We will miss him dearly. The ag world lost a legend on Friday.

Art and Mary Wolfskill - October 25, 2010 at 06:33 PM

CW

“ Agricultural Mechanization has lost it's Ambassador. The Agricultural community has lost one of the BEST! Dr. Harrell's teachings, values, and beliefs will continue through the hundreds of ag teachers across this state and nation who strive daily to educate our youth! To Beverly and the family; thanks to you for sharing him with us unconditionally. We are grateful.

Clint, Jana, Brady & Mattie Wilson - October 25, 2010 at 06:09 PM

GD

“ Beverly, Roma, Ginger and family, "Good-Bye My Friend" I have known you and worked hundreds of hours with you since 1990. Over the past 25 years at CEV I have had the pleasure to have worked with some of the best of the best, but you were the best my friend. Your walking around knowledge is among the top two people I have ever known, you are among our top two in number of video/DVD titles as featured collaborator, you were efficient, a truly gifted teacher in the classroom or on a monitor, and above all a "gentlemen" end-to-end. Job well done my friend, because to-date a million plus kids have been taught Ag. Mechanics by you across all 50 states, several countries, in more than 10,000 classrooms; now you have left a legacy in the field of Ag. Mechanics the likes of which may never come along again, thus thousands more kids you will never meet will no doubt be taught by you in generations to come. Your family, all of us at CEV Multimedia, hundreds of ag. teachers and thousands of kids will miss you dearly! Billy I will remember you for the rest of my days. "Good-Bye My Friend."  
Gordon Davis

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**Gordon Davis** - October 25, 2010 at 05:53 PM

LT

“ When I first thought of teaching Ag, one of the greatest fears I had was "what am I going to do in the shop?" I distinctly remember that day during Ag Mech presentations when that stupid electrical board did not light up! I was horrified and sooo embarrassed but Dr. Harrell was the ultimate in positive reinforcement and patient instructions. From that point forward, I did my best to emulate his example. Mentor, teacher, motivator, God's servant, intelligent, positive, capable and so much more describe this man who impacted so very many lives. All of us have been so blessed to have known him. He has left a legacy of influence that will last many life times. God bless you Harrell family, our prayers are with you... and thank you for sharing this incredible man with all of us

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**Liz Treptow** - October 25, 2010 at 04:40 PM

AR

“ *When you met him you knew you had met someone special. He was a great man and I will keep him and you all in my prayers.*  
*Ann & Tom Reynolds*

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**Ann & Tom Reynolds** - October 25, 2010 at 04:24 PM

TP

“ *Billy was such a kind gentle man, he also had such a glowing smile. The Huntsville Promenaders will miss Billy Harrell. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Beverly and the family. Rest in peace dear friend.*

*From: The Huntsville Promenaders*

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**The Huntsville Promenaders** - October 25, 2010 at 03:15 PM

AG

“ It takes a special heart to be able to interact with and touch the lives of students in a way a teacher and mentor can. Along with Dr. Harrell’s daily routine of teaching young men and women about agriculture, he also taught them valuable life lessons of friendship, teamwork, commitment, dedication and the importance of a maintaining a positive attitude and work ethic. For this, his students cherished him and his peers respected him. Dr. Harrell wore many hats during his time; not only was he a professor at SHSU, he was also a mentor, leader and confidant among his fellow colleagues and students. Dr. Harrell had a presence about him that would make even the gloomiest of days seem all the better; his smile would greet you from a mile away. An honest, caring soul...a pure blessing to know...Dr. Harrell truly was an inspiration to many and will be deeply missed by “Everybody!” An honorable man began his walk with the Lord on Friday, but his legacy will forever live. Our thoughts and prayers are with Dr. Harrell’s family and friends. Rest peacefully, Dr. Harrell.

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**Adam & Jessica (Redden) Graham, Gary & Bessie Graham** - October 25, 2010 at 03:14 PM

KA

“ I was not fortunate enough to have had Dr. Harrell as a professor, however, he still impacted me as a person and as a student for his continuous participation and passion for agriculture and those involved. He showed his face at every event at SHSU and more. I know that he will be greatly missed. Today I extend my deepest sympathy to Mrs. Harrell and family. God Bless you all and rest in peace Dr. Billy Harrell.

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**Kara** - October 25, 2010 at 02:30 PM

CN

“ My heartfelt sympathy goes out to Dr. Harrell's family and friends. As has been said many times, he was a great man. I was blessed to have the opportunity to work with him through ASABE. He has touched the lives of many and will be greatly missed.

With love and prayers,

Catherine

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**Catherine Nash** - October 25, 2010 at 02:03 PM

JH

“ We are better people for knowing Dr. Harrell and better teachers from being taught by him. We are truly blessed to have called Dr. Harrel our professor, mentor and friend. He will live on in all of the students and ag teachers he came in contact with, because we all took something from Dr. Harrell to help us in our lives and careers. He will be greatly missed.

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**Jayson & Annette Hill** - October 25, 2010 at 12:58 PM

JA

“ Dr. Harrell was such a sweet man. I worked with him for 4 years while I worked in the Ag. Dept. and he always had such a sweet disposition about him. I have such fond memories of him and all that he did for the Ag. Dept. and for me as the secretary. Always willing to do things for you. He will be missed by so many.

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**Janice** - October 25, 2010 at 12:32 PM

TR

“ *The Agriculture world lossed a great man on Friday....if you had the chance to know Dr. Harrell your are blessed for it. He coined the phrase "everybody" that is used by Ag Teachers everywhere. Rest in peace Dr. Harrell love Tracy.*

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**Tracy Gehring Roder** - October 25, 2010 at 12:16 PM

JB

“ *Billy was a young Vo.Ag.Teacher at Howe, Texas when I started teaching at S & S Consolidated in Grayson County. I considered him a great mentor and friend in those days and always looked foward to my visits with him at shows and conferences after he moved to Huntsville. He will be missed and I pray for the family to be comforted during this time.*

*Jack Boston  
Ag. Sci. Teacher, Retired  
Sadler, Texas*

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**Jack Boston** - October 25, 2010 at 11:53 AM

PF

“ *Dr Harrell was a great man who impacted the lives of a countless number of individuals throughout the state and nation. I feel privileged to have had the honor to be one of those whose life he touched. Dr Harrell not only taught me how to teach kids in a shop setting, he also taught me how to be a teacher who could be a positive influence on my students. I thank him for this and I will deeply miss him along with all the others who had the privilege of having the opportunity of knowing him.*

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**PT Mahoney and Family** - October 25, 2010 at 11:11 AM

MA

“ A wonderful man who gave so much to all of us at SHSU. Dr. Harrell, you will be missed by so many. May God grant you eternal peace and may he grant your family with the peace and support they need in this time of sorrow.  
God Bless!

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**Margaret Alexander** - October 25, 2010 at 10:43 AM

LE

“ Sympathy and condolences to the family. Dr. Harrell will be missed for his teaching expertise and friendly nature. May God Grant Him Eternal Rest.

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**Larry Ermis** - October 25, 2010 at 10:30 AM

MB

“ What an honor and privilege it was to have known and worked with Dr. Harrell for the past 20 years. Dr. Harrell was a true gentleman. He always had a smile and a friendly word for everyone he met and he never knew a stranger. He was one of the most gifted and talented persons I have ever worked with in the video business. We should all celebrate in the wonderful life you led and all the lives you have touched. I will truly miss Dr. Harrell and Beverly's visits through Lubbock. May God bless you Dr. Harrell and be with your family during this time. Mike Barley, CEV Multimedia

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**Mike Barley** - October 25, 2010 at 09:47 AM

HL

“ I Have had the opportunity, or i should say honor of doing business with Dr. Harrell for over 25 yrs.It is sad to say that good men are so few and far between. Dr.Billy Harrell was one of the good ones.I will miss the calls i got from him deeply.  
My sincere condolences to the family.

*From:Harold Lehman Pollok Tx.*

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**Harold Lehman** - October 25, 2010 at 09:31 AM

DS

“ Thanks Billy: Rest in peace

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**Donald Spell** - October 25, 2010 at 09:17 AM

SW

“ My deepest sympathy to the Harrell family in your loss. Billy touched the lives of many and will be missed.

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**Susan Williams** - October 25, 2010 at 09:15 AM

TR

“ A remarkable man that made everyone feel like they were capable. He taught us ag mechanics but gave us many more life lessons about service to others and dedication to a cause. Thank you to Dr. Harrell for his ability and his desire to teach the rest of us how to do better. You have always been a model for others. God Blesses the families of wonderful people.

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**Tracy & Cap Roder** - October 25, 2010 at 09:15 AM

RY

“ *Harrell Family,  
We recently enjoyed a short visit with Billy. What an amazing example of "Service Above Self!" Huntsville, SHSU & countless students have been blessed with his contagious spirit & love of agriculture. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

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**Rachel (Larrison) & John Yarabeck** - October 24, 2010 at 07:25 PM

BN

“ *Prayers for the family of Billy Harrell. A great professor and person.*

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**Beverly Conner Niederhofer** - October 24, 2010 at 06:33 PM

EA

“ *I have truly Lost a friend. Dr. Harrell you have touched my life in so many ways, as a True friend and a GREAT PROFESSOR. The Agricultural Dept. has lost a legion. You will be greatly missed. Our sympathy and condolences goes out to your family.*

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**Edd Artherholt** - October 24, 2010 at 04:49 PM

LM

“ *A great prof., great man, and a person always willing to help a student in need. He is a man that will be truly missed. Rest in peace Dr. Harrell.*

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**Lee Matthews** - October 24, 2010 at 02:03 PM

GG

“ *Our sympathy and condolences for your loss. We had many good times square dancing with Billy and Glenda. Billy was a good guy a great teacher and friend.*

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**Gene and Glenda** - October 23, 2010 at 10:58 PM

NJ

“ *My dear friend, how many lives you have touched while teaching at SHSU! To all of Billy's family, what a joy it was to know Billy Harrell-- a very wise man and a fantastic teacher. How very nice he was to me while I was the SHSU Alumni Director--1977-1992. He will be missed by all who knew him! Rest in Peace, my friend. Norma Dell Jones of Lovelady.*

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**Norma Dell Jones** - October 23, 2010 at 03:59 PM