



## Zane Bennett

May 23, 1958 - June 16, 2009

Zane Stephen Bennett Zane Stephen Bennett of Oakhurst, San Jacinto County, Texas passed away on Saturday, June 13, 2009 at Hermann Memorial Hospital in The Woodlands following a courageous battle with cancer. Zane was born May 23, 1958 in San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas. He was the son of Eleanor Ruth Mace and Zenas Howard Bennett. He was married to Carol Inman, in 1989. Zane was diagnosed with retinitis-pigmentosa (RP) during his early elementary school years. His eyesight grew steadily worse as the years progressed. Many would have used such a handicap as an excuse, but not Zane. After graduating from Coldspring High School, Coldspring, Texas, in 1976, he entered Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, graduating with a B. S. in Rehabilitation in 1987. It took him this long because he had to have “individuals to read his textbooks to him”. He had a sharp memory and a keen mind. His eternal optimism was another of his outstanding characteristics. Upon graduation from SFA he was employed as a counselor with the Texas Rehabilitation Commission/DARS. Through a quarter of a century, in this capacity, he helped thousands of individuals to better their lives as they struggled, each in their own way, with their physical/mental challenge. In 2002 he earned a Master’s of Science from University of North Texas in Denton, Texas. Zane always had a positive and cheerful outlook on life. He dearly loved his family, hunting, and helping others. Zane was a Master Mason of the Mt. Moriah Lodge #37 AF & AM, Coldspring, Texas. Zane is survived by his wife of twenty years, Carol

Bennett; daughter, Leah Michelle Birmingham (Jason); daughter, Kerrie Gladden (Donald, Jr), Pawpaw's five grandchildren; Joshua Dillion Pierce, Katelynn Denise Pierce, Kay Lynn Gladden, Victoria Amber Birmingham, and Jared Daniel Birmingham all of Oakhurst; son, Gary Audas, Jr. (Sandra) of Houston; Uncle, Steve Mace (Ann) of Fleetwood, PA. He was preceded in death by his parents. Visitation will be Monday, June 15, 2009 from 6-8 pm at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home Chapel in Huntsville, Texas. Funeral services for Mr. Bennett will be at 1:00 p. m. Tuesday, June 16, 2009 at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home Chapel in Huntsville, Texas, with Bishopric Counselor Jerry Don Toole of the Huntsville 1st Ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints conducting, along with Pastor Bryan Waddell of Center Hill Baptist Church. Interment will follow at Raven Hill Cemetery in Oakhurst. Masonic graveside services will be conducted by the members of Mt. Moriah Lodge #37 AF & AM, Coldspring, Texas.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Zane Bennett*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *I was never able to personally meet Zane, however he did help my brother in more ways than one...and his phone calls to me to check on Adrian were always appreciated! I know he was a great person and my thoughts and prayers are with your family.*

Monica Loizos - June 19, 2009 at 01:15 PM



“ *I was deeply moved and saddened on learning of Zane's passing when I returned to Huntsville this week. He has been my "hero" for some time, following my first meeting with him concerning my son, Richard.*

*Basically.... I credit him with saving my son's life, and giving him a new chance to create a new one. Such a caring, friendly, upbeat, caring and considerate man was Zane Bennett. Add brave, strong and seemingly eternally optimistic. I will miss him very very much. All who knew him will. All who he touched will miss him. And, especially, his closest friends and family. To them, I say that you have been most blessed to have him in your lives. Again.... we all have.*

*-Byron and Richard Hays*

Byron Hays - June 18, 2009 at 04:51 PM

JB

“ Carol,  
I was saddened to hear of my "far away" cousin's passing. Heartfelt sympathy to you & to all who were close to Steve.  
Janice  
Reading, PA

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**Janice (Mace) Bieber** - June 18, 2009 at 03:48 PM

KM

“ I am so glad I got to see him on Friday. He was ever determined and talked about coming to work the next week. He still talked about beating cancer. I will never forget his strength. Zane's life can be looked back on as one spent changing lives for the better. What he did when he changed one life, he also changed others for the better too..dad goes back to work, a mom is happy to see her mentally ill son improve, surgery relieves pain and a husband is smiling again, and on and on. So that's the kind of thing that Zane engineered day after day for so many years. And he helped others in our agency do it as well. He will be missed, though he leaves a lot of good things behind.

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**Karen Mitchell** - June 18, 2009 at 11:13 AM

LH

“ To the family of Zane, I want to thank you for letting him be in our lives. He was the most sensitive person I know. I met him only 8 short years ago when I started with TRC/DARS. I happen to get to work with him and Star when I first started. They both made me feel very welcome. Over the years I have come to understand God gave you a wonderful person. He always had time for you no matter what he was experiencing for the day. May God Bless you all and help to remember the wonderful time you had with him in this life. You will be in my thoughts and prayers to ease your pain.

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**Linda Hall** - June 16, 2009 at 07:13 PM

SC

“ Zane was always so positive and saw the best in everything. He devoted his life to helping others with numerous and varied problems. He set a good example for all with his selfless caring and hard work. He is a true jewel in God's crown. I will terribly miss him, his encouragement, and his kindness.

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**Sandy Cavil** - June 16, 2009 at 04:23 PM

JW

“ Zane, you touched countless number of hearts in your life, both personal and in your employment. You fought the good battle, and did not give up. God recognized this, and decided it was time for you to join him. God speed, Zane! You are truly missed, and have made a big mark on those that knew you.

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**John Walsh** - June 16, 2009 at 02:40 PM

MF

“ He will always be remembered as you share the stories and the memories of how he lived his life and how very much he meant, may you find comfort...And, throughout this difficult time, may you also know the deep sympathy and concern that is felt for you and all your family. I have fought the fine fight, I have run the course to the finish, I have observed the faith.-2Timothy 4:7. As for me, I will lie down that I may sleep; I shall certainly awake, for Jehovah himself keeps supporting me. -Psalms 3:5

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**Magallon family** - June 16, 2009 at 11:45 AM

TP

“ To the family, My condolences are with you. It has been such a blessing to have worked with and gotten to know Zane from working with him at the Conroe DARS office. I will never forget the assistance and jokes that Zane was always so willing to give. He has helped me through many difficult cases and complicated issues. He will be greatly missed.

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**Toi Porter** - June 16, 2009 at 10:32 AM

SR

“ I can't begin to say how sad I am to know you will not be here to continue your work and motivation of others. I know I told you before but I want to say again, thank you so very much for helping Katie. I think your presence in her life over the last two years has been so very important and seeing your kindness and success hopefully proved to her that she can, without a doubt, follow your example.

*It's seems rare to encounter people with the ability and willingness to go out of their way to help others and you did that for us and so much more.*

*I know your family is heartbroken and there is nothing anyone can say to ease that feeling. I hope Katie told you often that she appreciated you and your help because I encouraged her to do so. We never know if what we say or don't say will be the last time we have the opportunity.*

*There are angels among us and, in meeting you, I know that our family was blessed to know one.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family now. Thank you for being such a good person and thank you to them for sharing you with us. You will be missed.*

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**Sherry Richardson** - June 16, 2009 at 10:26 AM

TH

“ *It was a blessing to know and work with Zane for many years. He will be truly missed.*

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**Tess Horton** - June 16, 2009 at 09:41 AM

LM

“ *Zane, I truly enjoyed every minute of working with you. You were always so friendly and kind to work with. I consider you a true friend. You will be missed greatly. I wish all your family well and my thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

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**Linda Miller** - June 16, 2009 at 09:01 AM

MG

“ *Zane had such a presence about him, truly a blessing to be around. He was always cheerful and kind. I will always remember the way he would say "Hey Girl, what's going on?". He also had a wealth of knowledge that he was willing to share and help others in need. My heartfelt prayers and condolences to his family and friends.*

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**Montisha Goosby** - June 16, 2009 at 08:30 AM

JW

“ *Carol, I am so sorry to learn of Zane's passing. I have always cherished the memories of working with the two of you in Conroe and watching your love begin and grow. You are in my thoughts and prayers through this hard time.*

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**Jennifer Waldo** - June 16, 2009 at 12:34 AM

VC

“ My prayers and condolences are extended to you, the family. I am a former employee of DARS, but Zane was a good friend and a great mentor to me when I worked in the Conroe office. He helped me a lot as I transitioned from the Houston Office to Conroe in 2005. I was saddened to hear the news, but trust God because he doesn't make mistakes.

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**Veronica Comeaux** - June 15, 2009 at 08:43 PM

CH

“ Mr.Zane In the few times I had the pleasure to speak to you, I was blessed by your words of wisdom and the beauty of your heart and soul.No matter your struggles, your light lifted you and those around you.You are now and always will be a diamond in the rough, my heart goes out to your family in this time.

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**Candice Herrington** - June 15, 2009 at 05:39 PM

RL

“ Zane:  
We will all miss you greatly here in Austin at our meetings with the AUG every few months. Your contributions were a great value to DARS and the many staff and consumers who work everyday with AT tools.

*Peace to you and your family,*

*Ron Lucey*

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**Ron Lucey** - June 15, 2009 at 04:47 PM

EB

“ My deepest sympathy to the family and friends who will dearly miss such a wonderful person, such as Zane. I only got to work with Zane from a distance, in the College Station Field office but our conversations were always pleasant and professional. I will always remember his gentle voice and caring attitude through the consumers we serve. Zane was always ready to go the extra mile for each person that he enjoyed serving. He will be greatly missed. Our heavenly Father's abundant peace and comfort be with the family.

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**Elizabeth Burnett** - June 15, 2009 at 02:40 PM

BR

“ Posted on DRS region IV email:  
Good Morning,  
It is with great regret that I have to inform you of the passing of Zane Bennett a dedicated and skillful VRC out of the Huntsville Office. He will be missed by his Conroe Unit and Region 4 as a whole. It was my pleasure to get to know him just a little by visiting Huntsville on Fridays as I drove to Dallas. His spirit was always high and devoted to helping others.  
Please sent a pray up for his family to assist them in this trying time. He will be remembered for his strength of mind and the good work that he has done.

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**Bruce Anderson, DRS RD** - June 15, 2009 at 02:09 PM

BK

“ Zane-It did not hit me until last night when I drove up to Huntsville that you are gone. You will be greatly missed by the people you worked with and those that you helped. I will miss the conversations we had about guns and ammo,your Diet Coke that you always carried with you, and your laugh,especially when you were laughing at your own joke. I will continue to use you to inspire others as "the guy who continued to enjoy life by figuring out how to see so he could go deer hunting". I could go on and on. Thanks for being part of my life.

Carol and family-My prayers are with you and always remember the good times.

Your coworker and friend,  
Beverly

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**Beverly Kmiecik** - June 15, 2009 at 01:45 PM

GK

“ Carol and family,  
I wish you all strength during this difficult time. I knew Zane from working with him at DARS but know he will be missed. He was always in such a good mood and a happy man. I am blessed to have known him. My prayers are with you.

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**Gloria Krites** - June 15, 2009 at 01:18 PM

CL

“ It was a blessing to know Zane. Zane is an awesome person to know and work with. You will be truly missed. My prayers go out to the Bennett family. Know that God is with you during this time. Lean on him for strength.

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**Chiaryce Lacking-Quinn** - June 15, 2009 at 12:56 PM

DW

“ Carol and Family, we are thinking of you and send our sincerest sympathies.

*David and Barbara Wilkie  
Standish, ME*

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**David and Barbara Wilkie** - June 15, 2009 at 12:31 PM

BF

“ Well, Steve, I can't believe that your journey here on earth is over. Seems like yesterday Daddy, Memaw Ginger, Aunt Ruth and I were riding up to Nacogdoches to pick you up for a holiday from your studies at SFA. I distinctly remember your bean bag chair and your break-down pool cue. I remember the times we played pool over at my dad's house and you could really work the table. I couldn't have been but 8 or 9 years old then. You bought me my first "rock" cassette tape. Rick Springfield's Jessie's Girl was on there. You were quite a bit older than me, and everyone has told me that I quit drinking from a baby bottle the night of your graduation from Coldspring High School. I think I dropped the bottle under the bleachers and that was the end of that. As I grew up, and after you graduated from SFA, you were often next door visiting with your mom. I would see you there and at Thanksgiving and Christmas. I'm glad to have been at your wedding, as that is one of the happiest times I've seen you. After I moved to Washington, you kept in touch, and I liked that a lot. When I got married & you convinced Memaw Ginger that my husband Joe was an ok guy because he was a star football player in high school, well....thank you for that. The times we spent together in the last couple of years are times I will not forget. I'm glad that you got to go with us on that late-night trip to San Angelo after Memaw Ginger's funeral. I hope you are happy and at peace now in the Heavens, and I know that your mom and dad are happy to have you with them again. To Carol, Gary, Michelle, Kerry, and all the grandkids, my heart and prayers are with you. I know that Steve loved you all and that he was so happy to have you in his life. Love Always, your cousin, Becky

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**Becky Flarity** - June 14, 2009 at 07:29 PM