



Alan Hastings Shumate

October 21, 1942 - November 1, 2014

Services for Alan Hastings Shumate, 72, of Tyler, will be held on Thursday, November 6, 2014 at 10:00 AM at Stewart Family Funeral Home with Rev. Wes Bynum officiating.

Burial will follow at Rose Hill Cemetery in Tyler under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Mr. Shumate passed away Saturday, November 1, 2014 in Tyler.

He was born October 21, 1942 in Dallas to Clarence W. and Ruby Fae Timberlake Shumate.

His family moved to the Houston area in 1943. Alan contracted polio in the spring of 1945, with 6 months of hospitalization and a lifetime of effects. He graduated Galena Park High School in 1961 as a class officer and honor student. Alan then graduated from Sam Houston State University in 1965 with a degree in Speech Communication and in 1973 from Stephen F. Austin State University with a MEd in Educational Supervision.

Alan was a member of the First Baptist Church in Tyler. Mr. Shumate taught at Robert E. Lee High School from 1965 to 1996, spending 31 years as a public speaking teacher, 25 years as Lee's debate coach and 17 years as the Student Senate sponsor. Alan enjoyed traveling, visiting all 50 U.S. states, 40 plus foreign countries and his antique buying trips. He loved football, specifically High school football and basketball. He announced REL basketball for 17 years and was "the voice" of the Red Raiders football for 40 years. Mr. Shumate received many awards as a teacher including the President of the

Texas Forensic Association, Chairman of the North Texas Chapter of the National Forensic League. In 1996 he was selected by the University of Texas as one of the top 10 "Teachers of Excellence" in the State of Texas. In his retirement years Alan was on the Board of Directors of East Texas Goodwill Industries and Opportunities in Tyler and the Robert E. Lee football announcer. He was also a life member, P.T.A. and Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

Alan was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his brother, Morgan Shumate and wife Sue of Magnolia; nephews, Charles Shumate and wife Adriana of Katy and David Shumate and wife Cheri of Humble; niece, Becky Varner and husband Jeff of The Woodlands and numerous great-nieces and nephews all of Texas.

Pallbearers will be Doug Marshall, Kevin McCugh, Jack Peppard, Randy C. Roberts, Decker Kennington, Jim Borgeson, Steve Coker, and Neil Rambin. Honorary pallbearers will be the former debate students from Robert E. Lee High School.

Visitation is scheduled from 6:00 to 8:00 PM on Wednesday, November 5, 2014 at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway, in Tyler.

If desired, memorials may be made to the TJC Foundation, (the Alan Shumate Debate Scholarship) PO Box 9020, Tyler, Texas 75711.

Cemetery Details

Rose Hill Cemetery

2400 S. Donnybrook
Tyler, TX 75702

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 5. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Service

NOV 6. 10:00 AM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Tribute Wall

JT

“ Alan Shumate encouraged me to join the debate team in 1972, even though I was a "long-haired hippie" boy with a liberal outlook on politics and culture. But Alan treated everyone the same, with respect and dignity. I regret I didn't see him during my recent class reunion. Alan was a class act all the way. He will be missed and remembered.

john w. tunnell - November 07, 2014 at 09:59 AM

JH

“ We are so sorry for the loss of your dear loved one. Alan will be deeply missed by his family and many friends. I have great memories of the times that we taught together at REL. Alan touched the lives of so many people. He always encouraged all his students to strive to be their very best. He truly enjoyed his teaching days. He loved what he taught and inspired his students to cherish an education. He taught so many young people to express themselves intelligently with conviction. He was respected and held in high esteem by all students and the faculty. The father of one of Alan's students related the following message to me when he learned of Alan's death. "Jason really did like Mr. Shumate and used to sit in the announcing booth with him during some of the football games. He, along with every teacher, impacted more lives than he ever knew." May God comfort you,
Hedwig and John Hardie

John and Hedwig Hardie - November 05, 2014 at 08:26 PM

SD

“ Alan Shumate made a big difference in my life. He encouraged me to join the debate team at Robert E. Lee High School in the late 1960s and being part of that team made a profound difference in my life. As a teacher, he was always positive and supportive. All of us who were his students were indeed blessed.

Susan Smith Daniel - November 05, 2014 at 07:44 PM

RR

“ It was the Spring of 1974, I was a participant in the Optimist Oratorical Contest as a ninth grader from Moore Junior High (at the time), and "Mr. Shumate" came to listen and critique my speech prior to the local contest. His encouraging manner was evidenced by his comment to me as he was leaving, "Why don't you sign up for the Debate Team next fall? We'd love to have you!" Those three years went by so fast, but this man made a mark on my life. As others have commented, he had a great speaking voice, and served as the stadium announcer at all of our home football games. Yes, he supported the athletic programs of REL, but he primarily supported the students and invested his time, energy and his life into us! Heaven's got a new announcer to go along with Gabriel's trumpet. Heaven's gain is our loss. Thank you Mr. Shumate. Your life meant something to me, and countless others!

Randy Redd - November 05, 2014 at 03:55 PM

ER

“ I have such sweet memories of sitting with Alan so many, many Sundays in the balcony at First Baptist Church. He was very faithful in attendance and it was always fun to be in his presence. He is well loved in Tyler and will long be remembered for all his contributions to this area. Vernon and I will miss him. Elsie Redd

ELSIE REDD - November 05, 2014 at 12:51 PM

CB

“ *Such a wonderful voice for calling games for years. Will miss him.
Carolyn Halbrooks Bain*

Carolyn Halbrooks Bain - November 05, 2014 at 11:51 AM

LT

“ *Alan and I were friends for 47 years. I was with him on at least 90% of his antique excursions. Early in his career, when parents/teachers had to take students to tournaments in their personal cars, I attended many debate tournaments with Alan and the team. He and I co-sponsored the Quiz Bowl team and took the team to Shreveport on Monday nights for competition. We also took students to Europe in 1985. We talked on the phone almost every day. Obviously, he was one of my closest friends, and to say that I will miss him is an understatement. My prayers are with his family at this time.*

Lugene Tucker - November 04, 2014 at 06:14 PM

2T

“ *2004 Tyler Lee State Championship Football Team purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Alan Hastings Shumate.*



2004 Tyler Lee State Championship Football Team -
November 04, 2014 at 11:27 AM

RM

“ *Rick & Kari McDaniel purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Alan Hastings Shumate.*



Rick & Kari McDaniel - November 04, 2014 at 09:22 AM

JH

“ We remember well when Mr. Shumate taught our daughter, Heather, in his Speech class years ago....and also remember his booming voice announcing with gusto the REL ballgames. He was always polite and interesting and cared so much for his students. He would be so proud to know that she is now an Assistant Professor in Rhetoric Studies at a college in WA state. We are truly saddened to hear of his passing and send our heart-felt condolences to his family. Judie and Tommy Hayes

Judie and Tommy Hayes - November 03, 2014 at 05:59 PM

KC

“ Mr. Shumate was honestly one of my favorite teachers ever. He always remembered me especially when I would see him at El Charro. He taught more than speech and debate. He taught his students about life and I feel so blessed to have known him. He was such a sweet man. He will be greatly missed.
Kathey Bell Chapman

Kathey Chapman - November 03, 2014 at 03:39 PM



“ My senior year at Robert E. Lee I had the good fortune of taking Alan Shumate's debate class. I can honestly say the class changed my life... He will be missed by many and at the same token fondly remembered by countless others.

Pat Glass - November 02, 2014 at 06:33 PM

SS

“ Several years ago I passed Rose Hill cemetery and saw Shumates headstone. As a former student I was saddened by his passing. I stopped by to pay my respects and cried...he was one of my favorite teachers. A couple of days later I ran into another former student of his and broke the news to which he replied "well unless something happened to him today he's fine...I just got off the phone with him!" Turns out Shu had pre purchased his headstone not realizing it would then need to be placed at the gravesite. I called the next day. We laughed about the mix up and he said "well, it was so sweet of you to go by and shed a tear...I hope you didn't waste them all on the dress rehearsal." I assured him I had not. We spoke and visited on a regular basis from that point on becoming great friends. He was always there to listen and encourage and share a laugh. In the next few days I will make good on my promise, Shu. I'm just deeply saddened that this time is not the dress rehearsal. Goodbye my sweet friend. Until we meet again I will be gathering good stories to share with you.

Stephanie Sealey - November 02, 2014 at 08:08 AM