



## Samuel Bracken

February 15, 1923 - April 18, 2010

Sam T. Bracken, 87, went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Sunday, April 18, 2010. He passed away at his beloved NAB Ranch in Smithson Valley, Texas, where he spent most of his final years, which brought him great joy. The family will receive friends at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy, Tyler, on Friday April 23, 2010 from 5:00-7:00 PM. The celebration of Sam's life is scheduled for Saturday, April 24, 2010 at Marvin United Methodist Church at 1:00 PM. Interment will follow at Rose Hill Cemetery. Sam was born February 15, 1923 in Van, Texas to the late John Atticus "J.A." and Rhoda Ann Shivers Bracken. He moved to Tyler in 1927 where he attended Gary Elementary, Hogg Junior High and Tyler High School. From there he went to Southern Methodist University where he was a member of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity. At the beginning of World War II, Sam was called into active duty in the United States Navy. He attended Officer Training Academy before being shipped to the Philippines. Sam was a patriotic American who contributed his time and money to make this country a better place for his family. Sam's spiritual heritage was a legacy from his parents. The family motto, "As for me and my family we will serve the Lord," inspired Sam to open his home for the daily Bible classes that took place there for many years. The multitude of people who attended those Bible studies were given the opportunity to receive the Bible doctrine and an understanding of what a true relationship with Jesus Christ is about. The results of those Bible studies are still being seen and felt throughout the community to this day. Sam

was an avid collector of antiques, model cars and automobiles. His love for beautiful things and history inspired him to design and build beautiful homes. He masterfully restored many historically significant homes. Sam was also a partner in the Bracken Oil Company as well as a rancher and a member of the Bracken Land and Cattle Company. Sam was very active in many community organizations. He was a member of Marvin United Methodist Church, The Lions Club, Order of the Rose, Rose Festival Association, Community Concert, Symphony, Willow Brook Country Club, Texas Wildlife Association, Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, the National Rifle Association and many others. Known by his many nieces, nephews, and long time friends as "Rabbit", he was an inspiration and example for many young people. He founded the Bracken Christian School in Bulverde in 1985 to provide Christian values for the youth of South Texas. He was also a generous supporter of Grace Community Schools of Tyler and afforded college opportunities to many who would not have had the ability or blessings to attend. Sam was preceded in death by his parents, John Atticus Bracken "J.A." and Rhoda Ann Shivers Bracken; his two sisters, Ida Bracken Lewis and Addie Bracken Price; and his brothers, Glenn Harold Bracken and Jeff McClean Bracken. Sam is survived by his only child, Nancy Ann Bracken and only grandchildren, Samuel Bracken Walden and Mary Lawson Bracken Walden. He is also survived by ten adoring nieces and nephews, 25 great-nieces and nephews and 44 great-great-nieces and nephews. Pallbearers will be Atticus Bracken, Rob Bracken, Lee Cannan, Glenn Evans, Will Evans, J.J. Fischer, Fred Heldenfels, Andrew Pfaff, Bert T. Pfaff, John Price, Bracken Walden, Randall Walton and Randy West. Honorary pallbearers will be Jamie Boring, Robert Bracken, John Bryan, J.P. Bryan, Pete Chambers, Tom Chambers, Carter Evans, Jim Fischer, William Heldenfels, Rob Marshall, John Paul Price, Dick Summers, Ben Sutton, James Ulmer, Lonnie Uzzell, Mark Uzzell, Matt Uzzell and Bill Williams. The family expresses a special thank you to Dr. Chris Kopecky and the staff of Personal Care for their many years of devoted care and services. The family would like to request memorials in

honor of Sam Bracken may be made to the Bracken Christian School, 670 Old Boerne Road, Bulverde, Texas 78163-3202, 830-438-3211. For more information or to express condolences, visit [www.stewartfamilyfuneral.com](http://www.stewartfamilyfuneral.com).

# Tribute Wall

SG

“ I like to remember Sam as many of us saw him: full of life with one of the greatest laughs you'll ever hear! He was generous and kind and beloved by so many. My history with Sam was through Nancy and began with the many car trips to Tyler and Tilden! Sam and I had a history - a relationship that could only truly be understood by that 10 year old girl (me) and that tall oil man back in 1970! Sam was a wonderful father to Nancy and I knew that. The love there was not equalled!

Jesus is probably laughing with tears as Sam has no doubt told him one of his many stories - in a way that Sam could tell it!! You had to laugh even if you didn't get it - his laugh was contagious!

Thank you God for putting him on this earth for those many, many years. My heart goes out to my dear sweet Nancy, her kids, and all the Bracken relatives!

With great love! Stacy

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**Stacy Robbins Galasso** - April 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ Many thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Sam Bracken. I am privileged to teach at Bracken Christian School where Mr. Bracken's love and dedication to the Lord continues to live and spread. This is a wonderful foundation of Christian education and a beautiful legacy of love left behind by Mr. Bracken. Thank you for giving this gift to the community in the service of our Lord. May God bless the family members with compassion, comfort, and happy memories.

In Him,  
Shirley Reed

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**Shirley Reed** - April 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM

NH

“ Mr. Bracken's gift so many years ago made it possible for our school to be! I have had 4 children here; my husband has worked here for 16 years and I have worked here 10! My first born, Tyler, graduated in 2008 as the valedictorian and was a National Merit Scholar! You're family helped make that possible! My second born, Leah, will graduate on May 22nd. Because of the great education she received here, she also will be receiving numerous scholarships for college. Hannah, a freshman, and Samuel, an 8th grader, are receiving an excellent, Christ-centered education. All this is due to the generosity of Mr. Bracken. Thank you so very much! May the Lord bless you and comfort you at this time of loss to your family!

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**Nanette & Fred Hilgendorf** - April 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ I have been blessed to teach at Bracken Christian School for 14 years. Both of my children have graduated from Bracken as well. I cannot imagine my life or my children's life without Bracken! What a blessing it has been to our entire family. Mr. Bracken's generous contribution of the land for our school is beyond just a simple "thank you"! He has made a tremendous impact on so many lives and I am sure will have an abundance of crowns in heaven to lay at our Lord's feet. Thank you, thank you, thank you for blessing so many lives with your generosity and making such an impact in our community.

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**Terri Sanders** - April 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KK

“ We just wanted to let you know what a blessing Mr. Bracken has been to this family. We have never met but our three children attend Bracken. We have been here at Bracken for 12 years and realize that is it possible because of Mr. Bracken's generosity. We were so sorry to hear of his passing but know that he is with his Lord and Savior right now! We are praying for you and your family as you grieve and celebrate his life.

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**Kevin and Leslie Koch** - April 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ I have had the privilege of teaching at Bracken Christian School for the past 9 years. Mr. Bracken leaves an amazing legacy at this school. Everyday we strive to honor the Lord by providing an excellent education within a Biblical worldview. Thank you for the gift that made it all possible. Your father/grandfather/uncle/friend was truly a great man of God. I pray God's comfort and peace over all of Mr. Bracken's family and friends.

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**Laura Simmons** - April 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM

GH

“ Mr. Bracken was a kind, generous and thoughtful man. He spent many holiday meals at our kitchen table and we enjoyed his company. We will dearly miss him.  
We Love You SAM.  
Greg and Pam

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**Greg and Pam Howerton** - April 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ My grandfather, Galloway Calhoun, built a house on the Old Bullard Road in Tyler, which was then on about 8 acres. I have wonderful memories of it as a boy visiting in the summers in the 1950's. He sold it to Mr. Bracken around 1960. I remember my mother was sad about that, but she was happy that "Rabbit Bracken" had bought it. The house is now back in my family, owned by my cousin, Galloway Calhoun III. My grandfather taught the "Friendly Class for Men" at Marvin Methodist for many years, and must have known Mr. Bracken well.

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**Calhoun Bobbitt** - April 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ I have only been at Bracken Christian School for two years. But I have heard many wonderful blessings that Mr. Bracken has given through his life. His impact upon the lives of the people and His testimony is overwhelming to so many. Even though I never met him, I know him because of his gift of being a representative of love and devotion to ministry. Thank you. In His Love and His Service, Mr. Boggs (Fourth Grade Teacher)

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**Larry L. Boggs** - April 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Dear family of Mr. Bracken,

*I am always proud to tell people that I am a teacher at Bracken Christian School. What a wonderful legacy Sam Bracken has given us.*

*As a teacher, it has been a place for me to not only teach my subject, but a place to form relationships with students and be able to watch them grow, spiritually. As a parent, it is a place where my youngest son, now 16, has been able to learn who he is in Christ, and gain confidence in who he is. The generosity of your family has, and will continue to make a positive impact on people's lives for many, many years. May your family be blessed multiple times, over and over again! May your memories of Mr. Bracken, also, be a wonderful blessing as you remember his life and the loving example he set for all of us.*

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**Lynn Stafford** - April 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM