Baylor Statistics Professor Thomas L. Bratcher Passes

Thomas Lester Bratcher, Ph.D., 70, who resided near Cranfills Gap in Bosque County, Texas, passed away suddenly on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 3, 2012, at Hillcrest Medical Center in Waco. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 8, in the St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Cranfills Gap with Pastor Joan Iker officiating. Burial will be in the St. Olaf Lutheran (Rock Church) Cemetery near Cranfills Gap.

Tom was born July 9, 1942, to Sidney Eugene and Laura Margaret Bratcher in Ft. Worth, Texas. He graduated from Eastern Hills High School in Ft. Worth in 1960. Tom received his B.S. in mathematics from Arlington State College in 1963, his M.S. in statistics in 1965 from SMU, and his Ph.D. in statistics in 1969.

Tom accepted a position, specializing in Bayesian Methods, at Baylor University in Waco in 1979. At Baylor, Tom was a primary organizer of the Conference of Texas Statisticians that is now in its 32nd year and formed the Ph.D. program in statistics at Baylor that he has directed for the past 20 years.

Tom married the love of his life, Nancy Swanson, on Jan. 2, 1982, in Waco. Tom and Nancy moved to their beautiful Bosque County "Shady Place" ranch in 1997 that they shared with their goats, donkeys, and cattle as well as the indigenous coyotes along with visiting family and friends that were always welcome to stay in the bunk room or couch. Tom was a very active participant in numerous Bosque County causes, including the Arts Council, and became the Bosque County Republican Chairperson in 2009 and was a staunch supporter in helping many State and U.S. Congressman and Senators as well as county officials be elected to office.

Tom was a loving husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, and friend and will be missed tremendously by us all. His mother dedicated his life to God before he was born and he certainly didn't disappoint, always being a true Christian and a man of God, always willing to help anyone anyway he could.

We all will have a void in each of our lives from our own personal relationships with Tom, as he has had a major influence and impact on all our lives--that's just the way Tom was!! But, we are all better people for knowing Tom and having him as part of our lives. What more can you have asked of anyone other than it being cut shorter than it should have been.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy Gail Bratcher of Meridian; daughters, Brandelin Bratcher of Addison, and Andrea Lynn Swanson of Waco; sons, Wendell Thomas Bratcher of Oklahoma, and Thomas Lee Swanson of Carrollton; grandchildren, Lauren Klassen, Alicia Hasse, and Jordyn and Brayden Baugh; great-grandchildren, Ryelee, Skylur, and Matthew; mother, Laura Margaret Bratcher of Granbury; siblings, Merry Eugenia Johnson and husband, David, of Burleson, Jimmy Lea Bratcher and wife, Pam, of Pasadena, Calif., Dale Bratcher and wife, Annette, of Frisco, Terry Glenn Bratcher and wife, Deborah, of Arlington, and Sherry Lynn Gilliland and husband, Robert, of Arlington; a number of nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Sidney Eugene Bratcher.

Serving as pallbearers will be Joe Bratcher, Charlie Bratcher, Clayton Bratcher, John Gholson, David Ussery, Terry Bartoli, and Brayden Baugh.

The family requests that in lieu of floral remembrances, memorials be made to the Lutheran Sunset Ministries, P.O. Box 71, Clifton, Texas, 76634.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.lawsonfuneralhome.net.