



Justice David Lee Bridges

June 2, 1955 - July 25, 2020

David Lee Bridges, born June 2, 1955, in Fort Worth, Texas, lived a full, joyful life as a man of faith; caring husband; loving father and grandfather; and faithful public servant until he died in a car accident in Royse City on July 25, 2020.

The second of four children born to Weldon and Lynn Bridges, David grew up in Alba, TX. He graduated third in his class from Rains High School in Emory, TX. He worked hard in school, playing tackle on the Rains High offensive line, earning his Eagle Scout, and working the fields hauling hay. After graduating, David joined the U.S. Army in 1973 where he worked as an electrician. He received an honorable discharge in 1975.

He worked at the General Electric plant in Tyler, TX putting himself through school at Tyler Junior College and the University of Texas at Tyler where he earned his bachelor's degree in political science. After graduation, David took a year to work as a petroleum landman leasing mineral rights in the Appalachian Mountain range and left his job as crew chief to attend Texas Tech School of Law in 1981.

David graduated with his Juris Doctorate in 1984 and returned to his roots in East Texas to serve justice as an attorney. He was an Assistant District Attorney in Upshur and Smith Counties and served as the lead prosecutor in numerous criminal cases in East Texas. After five years of practicing law, David joined the State Bar of Texas as an attorney where he helped to ensure the integrity of the Texas legal system through his prosecution of errant lawyers.

In 1988, David assumed the position of Senior Trial Attorney for the State Bar and moved with his family to Rockwall, TX in 1990. In 1991, David was named First Assistant in Charge of Litigation for the State Bar of Texas.

In 1996, David was sworn into the Fifth Court of Appeals in Dallas, TX. He held his seat for nearly 24 years. In his time on the Court, he wrote more than 2,000 opinions. Before he passed away, David was pursuing the nomination to become the U.S. Congressman

for Texas' 4th Congressional District.

A devout man of faith, David was a member of First Baptist Church of Rockwall and served in the infant nursery and as an assistant librarian in the church library nearly every Sunday for more than 25 years. David was a man of principle and was known at home and in the public eye as a man of the highest integrity. His kindness, smile, and frequent laugh instantly warmed any room he walked into, and he always leaped into action to help those in need—friend, family, or stranger.

David is survived by his wife Sandra, daughters Elizabeth and husband Travis and Alexandra and fiancé Jeremiah, his two grandchildren Everett and Miles, and his siblings Joe, Sharon, and Weldon. He is preceded in death by his parents Weldon and Lynn Bridges.

David lived his life like his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, a servant leader: loving, caring, and purpose-driven. He is dearly missed, and his memory will be cherished forever by friends and family alike.

A night of remembrance will be held at Rest Haven Funeral Home (2500 State Highway 66 East, Rockwall, TX 75087) from 6-8pm on Friday, July 31st. The memorial service will be held at First Baptist Church of Rockwall (610 S Goliad St, Rockwall, TX 75087) on Saturday, August 1st, at 2pm. David will be buried on Thursday July 30th at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin, TX in a private ceremony.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to a GoFundMe page setup to help pay for Alex's Masters in Public Health degree which was a great pride of David's. The link to GoFundMe is - <https://www.gofundme.com/f/alex-bridges039-grad-school-fund>

Events

JUL **Night of Remembrance** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

31
Reflections at Rest Haven Funeral Home - Rockwall Location
2500 State Highway 66 East, Rockwall, TX, US, 75087

AUG **Memorial Service** 02:00PM

1
First Baptist Church Rockwall
610 S. Goliad Street, Rockwall, TX, US, 75087

Comments



“

November 14, 2020 at 03:52 AM



“

November 14, 2020 at 02:57 AM



“

November 14, 2020 at 02:52 AM



“

Justice Bridges was a hard-working, thoughtful jurist, and a kind gentleman. The Dallas and Texas Bars have lost a wonderful role model of a dedicated public servant.

David Coale - August 02, 2020 at 10:46 AM



“

Dear Sandy, Elizabeth, and Alex,

You know some of this already, and I was glad we had the opportunity to talk last night.

I was very fortunate to meet David at Texas Tech Law School in 1981. We had classes together, played flag football together, and played so many games of dominoes (42) that I cannot possibly remember them all. We worked on Don Richards' campaign for Congress. Through it all David was the best of friends to everyone in the school. After becoming lawyers, we lost track for a few years but reconnected at the Board Certification exams in Austin in 1989. After a little while longer we started up the domino games again and kept them up through the decades (with special thanks to Larry Fowler, who hosted the last dozen or more at his center field office building at the Ballpark in Arlington). There were a few drives down to Houston for the Lanier Christmas party, too. I'm sure I have some pictures somewhere and will look for them. There's one of us with Crosby, Stills & Nash that you have probably seen. Cathy and I were at the Dolly Parton concert, too, but didn't get a picture taken with her. (Someone should have told David to keep his hands down at his side!) We will all miss David terribly, and can only imagine the pain you are going through. Please remember that you are not alone. You also have a thousand friends to lean on just as you have your faith and family to help get you through this. David was not just a friend, but a role model and rule-follower we all learned from. Thank you for sharing him with us, and may God be with you always.

From grieving friends,

Mark Stradley

Texas Tech Law Class of 1984

And Cathy Stradley (an admirer and huge fan since 1992)

Mark & Cathy Stradley - August 01, 2020 at 05:46 PM



“

Thank you, Mark & Cathy!

David certainly loved you, as well as all his friends from Tech Law. I have heard so many stories about domino games, playing Miss PacMan, and playing flag football. I thought he was just exaggerating until I began to meet some of his friends from Tech, and that's when I realized he must have had a photographic memory. As our precious years went by, I noticed more and more evidence of that gift. He was the most intelligent man I ever knew, but he was also the most unorganized man I ever knew. Ha! That was where I came in, and I think we made a pretty good pair. I certainly know we had a lot of fun, & we promised each we would not let one single day go by without thanking God for our blessings. He called me all the time when he was on the road. I think I counted 5 calls & several messages from that day. We always said I love you at the end of each call, but I recently added something else during the last couple of months when he was working for the Congressional seat. I always make a point to tell him how proud I was of him, and I am so very glad because I was very proud of David. Thank you for being his great friend.

Sandy - August 09, 2020 at 11:26 AM



“ To Sandy, Alex and Elizabeth. Know that God will be with you today and in the days ahead. David will be missed by so many, but especially his family. He was a great man and a genuine Christian. So glad that I knew him. On the bright side he now has that coveted Heaven Address that we all long for someday. Praying for you all for peace and comfort.

Sherri Johnston - August 01, 2020 at 05:33 PM



“ Thank, Sherri. Please keep praying.

Sandy - August 09, 2020 at 11:27 AM



“ A sad heart felt day it was the day this world lost David Bridges. I pray for lots of sweet, loving friends that I know they have to show their loving support for Sandy and the girls in the days to come as I know they would do for all of us. David will be missed by anyone who has ever met him and will NEVER be forgotten. My love and prayers to Sandy and the girls

Lisa Davis - August 01, 2020 at 05:25 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of David Lee Bridges.



August 01, 2020 at 03:51 PM



“ Doreen B. purchased a sympathy card for the family of David Lee Bridges.



Doreen B. - August 01, 2020 at 03:22 PM



“ I want to offer my condolences to the family and friends. I met Justice Bridges in 2006 and I can honestly say he was one of the nicest, most sincere men I have ever met. He was a sweet person and I know how much his family mattered to him. I pray for them during this horrible time.

Matt Scott - August 01, 2020 at 12:51 PM



“ Thank you so much,

Sandy - August 09, 2020 at 11:28 AM



“ David and I were classmates from the time he moved to Emory through high school. I would cross paths with him when he lived in Tyler, and then later after he moved away and was an attorney, I would see him at various legal functions where he spoke. When he would come to town with petitions for his next election, he always got my signature, and I helped secure others for him. One time, he and Alex came to Tyler to visit his friend, Richard Moore, at his home, and I went over to visit with David while he was in town. We all sat poolside and visited while little Alex swam like a fish! It is a great memory! David was such a generous, kind, and genuine person. I know his untimely departure from this earth has left a big whole in his loved ones' and friends' hearts. But there is such comfort in knowing his eternal home is heaven, and we all will be reunited with him one day. All of David's family members are in my thoughts and prayers. Praying for peace and comfort for you all in the days ahead.

Jo Ruth Hancock - July 31, 2020 at 11:34 PM



“ Thank you, Jo Ruth.

Sandy - August 09, 2020 at 11:29 AM



“ I’m incredibly sorry for this loss. I am a cousin of David’s and his family although we only going out 5 years ago. His father was my grandmothers younger brother. It’s crazy hoe big the Bridges family is. It’s ironic how we all came together to live all so close to each other and truly be related... a genealogy report with a big family tree and a slight inheritance for all for our big family from a distant relative. He was so funny .. he popped into my dance studio and asked for me and then said your my cuz .. with a big smile and a hug.. and what was the best part we talked for 2 hours and we talked about my dad who is gone and he told me stories about my dad I never knew of. We were family and it was obvious how wonderful he was... we were still trying to plan a big Bridges reunion with that tree but time gets away from you sometime... hugs to all of David’s family (my family) I have yet to meet but I’m so glad God have me that moment in life to meet such a good man! Peace be with all.
Vicky Bearden Staton

Vicky Staton - July 31, 2020 at 07:03 PM



“ Thank you, Vicky
Sandy - August 09, 2020 at 11:30 AM



“ I met David, Sandy, and Alex shortly after Jesse and I married. Through the years we have followed Alex through FB post of her twirling. I love the video of the Father-Daughter Twilling! David would do anything for Alex and all of his family, even attempt to twirl a Baton. Jesse and I never failed to sign a petition for David. As Jesse said, I can’t help but think he is holding the highest seat of his life in Heaven, and he didn’t have to campaign for that one. It was given freely because he loved the Lord, and Jesus as his Savior. God bless you, sweet family. Love you!
Hugs!



Lou Crouch - July 30, 2020 at 10:09 PM



“ Thank you, Lou. Our family loves you, What didn't get on the video happened about 10 years before this performance. Elizabeth was Senior Cheerleader at RHS, and the RHS Cheer puts on a 2 night and one-afternoon dinner show. He learned how to tap dance for that one, and I have to admit - he had some talent. I'll have to share the video clip with you someday. We love you guys. Thank you for being there for us.

Sandy - August 09, 2020 at 11:36 AM



“ When I was a full-time reporter for the Gilmer Mirror newspaper in the late 1980s, I covered David in his capacity as an assistant district attorney for Upshur County. Although I recall seeing him only twice since he left here in December 1988 (once in 2014 at a political event and once in 2018 when he called on me while he was running for the Court of Criminal Appeals), I thought very highly of him. His wife is originally from here in Upshur County and I want to express my sympathy and prayers to them. I never imagined I would be someday writing up his death, caused by a drunk driver, for three different East Texas weekly papers. I called Buddy Loyd, who was a district attorney when David was his assistant here long ago and got some nice quotes from him for my article. This is a great loss to our state.

Phillip Williams - July 30, 2020 at 03:01 PM



“ Thank you, Phillip.

Sandy - August 02, 2020 at 10:37 PM



“ Phillip, First of all, thank you for the lovely story you wrote and ran on the front page of the Gilmer Mirror. That meant the world to our family. Also, we need about 25 copies of that particular issue. I get the Mirror, so we all had a chance to read it, but I would love to have some laminated for friends & family. You guys can bill me, or someone can call & I'll pay over the phone. My cell number is 214-725-4773. Since I receive the Gilmer each week, I'm sure you have my address. Again, thank you for everything. David thought of you.

Sandy - August 09, 2020 at 11:46 AM



“ I last saw David outside of court at a church Christmas function. He introduced me to his family and went on and on about what a great advocate I was in his court. This was just like him. Always humble, putting others first. I argued before him dozens of times. No matter whether he agreed or disagree with me or my opponent, he was always respectful and courteous. A true gentleman and sweet man. He certainly lived by the two greatest commandments: love God and love others. I will miss him, but I know I will see him again in heaven.

Mike Yanof - July 30, 2020 at 11:14 AM



“ Rudy Walker Jr lit a candle in memory of Justice David Lee Bridges



Rudy Walker Jr - July 30, 2020 at 01:38 AM



“ I met David in college in Tyler in 1978 and we became fast friends. I always admired his sense of humor as well as his internal drive to always do better. My parents both loved him as well. He presided at our wedding in Houston in 1998. We maintained our friendship throughout the years even though we did not see each other often enough. I am sorry to lose such a great friend, but I'm sure there are many who are feeling the same way right now. He was so proud of his family and I wish them all the best in this difficult time.

Patrick Paro - July 29, 2020 at 10:03 PM



“ David Bridges and I were friends for over 50 years. We first met in Scout Troop 364 in Emory. We shared a love of the outdoors and both received our Eagle Scout award. Over the years David would always check on me when in the Emory area We talked about our younger days and enjoyed a few laughs. I last saw David a few years ago at the Rains County Fair. Always the same caring, genuine David!! My heart is sad beyond words to lose this fine man.

Wayne Melton - July 29, 2020 at 08:20 PM



“ My heart is in prayer for all of you!

Rhonda Goss(Koussa)

Rhonda Goss - July 29, 2020 at 06:45 PM



“ Nick and I have known Judge David so many years at the George Allen Cafeteria and he was the sweetest and gracious man always and his smile. Our prayers and thoughts are with you all and our memories Eternal!

Julia and Nick Dimoulakis - July 31, 2020 at 01:56 AM



“ David was one of my favorite former students. He always had a warm smile for everybody. I followed his amazing career with a bit of pride. What a loss for all of us. May his memory be a blessing.

John Spurgin

John Spurgin - July 29, 2020 at 05:22 PM



“ Johb, you can take pride. You were an inspiration to many of us, including David.

Patrick - July 29, 2020 at 09:45 PM



“ Are you the John Spurgin who taught at UT Tyler in 1977 or thereabouts? I was one of your students.

Phillip Williams - July 30, 2020 at 03:03 PM



“ Yes Phillip.

John Spurgin - July 30, 2020 at 09:36 PM



“ Dear Sandy, Elizabeth and Alex,
We send our deepest sympathies to you. David was such a kind and lovely gentleman.
Thinking of you,
Karen, Dave and Adam Teaff



Karen Teaff - July 29, 2020 at 03:43 PM



“ Thank you. We had a lot of fun, but I was hoping for more.
Sandy - August 09, 2020 at 11:48 AM



“ I was so sad to hear about the death of David. He was always so kind every time we saw each other in this close Rockwall community. He would talk about his family and I would share stories of mine. I will miss your smile. Prayers for God to hold up this family as they go through days that will be hard for them to stand on their own. God Speed Judge Bridges.

Karen, Robert, Cameron & Cate Frazier - July 29, 2020 at 03:18 PM



“ David loved the Fraziers. You guys were simply, "His kind of people."
Sandy - August 09, 2020 at 11:50 AM



“ David, Pat Paro and I were inseparable as fellow political science students at UT Tyler. Those were wonderful experiences and would have been so much less without David and Pat. David was always an intelligent and caring man and the world will be a little less bright without him. His was the calm voice of reason that the world needs right now. What a loss!

Dr. Amy S. Glenn - July 29, 2020 at 01:03 PM



“ I met David Thursday before his passing. We visited for about two hours on politics and a number of other subjects. When David was leaving we shook hands twice and I felt that we were old friends. It is not often that something like this happens.

I am saddened at his passing and the loss of a good friend

Bill Collins - July 29, 2020 at 08:22 AM



“ I was saddened and shocked to hear the news of David's passing. He was always a kind soul. I went to High School with David and Weldon was in my class. I am so sorry for the family. My son Dustin has was in one of David and Sandy's daughter's class in high school in Rockwall. I had the privilege of working with Sandy in the school. I am praying for your family.

Glenda Reid - July 28, 2020 at 09:28 PM



“ Sandy and family,

We were so very saddened to hear of David's passing. He was such a kind and caring man. And he LOVED his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. May God be your comfort and refuge in the days ahead.

Len and Lynn Lowry

Len Lowry - July 28, 2020 at 04:55 PM



“ My heart is with all the Bridges family. Sending love and special care... we all love David so very much and miss him dearly Blessings, love, and peace in our Lord.

Janice Jackson Seamands

janice Jackson Seamands - July 28, 2020 at 09:36 PM



“ Dearest Sandy and family,
Our hearts are so heavy with sadness with the passing of your beloved David. Your family has always been so full of love as you have walked the Christian path. We know David walks the path in heaven now with Jesus Christ our savior. David was such a good man and made a such positive impact on everyone he met, he lead by example. We will pray for comfort and peace for you and the family. We love you and we are truly so very sorry for your tremendous loss. God bless you,

Renee' Ramirez and family

Renee' Ramirez - July 29, 2020 at 01:09 PM



“ David Bridges, A Humble Man, A Man of Wisdom, A Man of Truth and Integrity, A Follower of Jesus, A Selfless Servant...on and on I can go to describe the example David lived. Our loss, Heaven's gain! Really no words to honor his life as it warrants. Grace, Peace, Comfort and Provision in the days ahead over Sandy and all of the family and those who knew and loved David.

Glade Ross - July 28, 2020 at 04:45 PM



“ Sandy, Elizabeth and Alex,
Charles and I were so saddened to hear of David's passing. He was such a kind, soft spoken, caring man. Our hearts and prayers go out to you all. May God comfort you in the difficult days ahead.
Charles and Lana Turner

Lana Turner - July 28, 2020 at 01:59 PM



“ Thank you, Lana. David & his brother looked at land about 6 or 7 miles from you guys 2 weeks ago. It was 75 acres, and our plan was to build a house for David's brother and then one for us. We were so excited, but God had other plans. :(I'm going to miss that big guy like crazy. I don't know who is going to eat the 20 pounds of beans he bought at the beginning of the Covid! We had a great time together. I love and miss you guys.

Sandy - August 01, 2020 at 03:09 AM



“ Such fond memories of David and sandy on ridge road wonderful friends and neighbors. I knew David and helped him campaign for Congress. He was always a joy to be around and always considerate of others. My prayers go out to David and his family. You were loved brother.
Brian Ballard

Brian Ballard - July 28, 2020 at 01:36 PM



“ He loved you, Brian!

Sandy - August 09, 2020 at 11:51 AM



“ David was such a great friend to me. From the minute we met at the church nursery, I could see his servant's heart. We rocked babies together for nearly 25 years. One time I was at his courthouse and he let my brother and I hang out in his chambers on a break. I know that David and my husband, Darren are rocking babies in heaven together now. Love and miss you friend!!

Jane Hurt - July 28, 2020 at 12:48 PM



“ Prayers for the precious family of this fine man for a peace that passes all human understanding!

Norma Cummings - July 28, 2020 at 12:35 PM



“ Sandy, Liz, and Alex, I am so sorry to hear of the tragic loss of Judge Bridges this past weekend. He loved each of you so much and you all were the topic of conversation every time that I had the opportunity to see him! He will never be forgotten for his kindness and devotion to the Lord and in serving his country! God bless each of you and may you find peace and strength during this difficult time!

Billy Pringle

Billy Pringle - July 28, 2020 at 12:19 PM



“ David, Pat Paro and I were inseparable as fellow political science students at UT Tyler. Those were wonderful experiences and would have been so much less without David and Pat. David was always an intelligent and caring man and the world will be a little less bright without him. His was the calm voice of reason that the world needs right now. What a loss!

Dr Amy S Glenn - July 29, 2020 at 12:24 PM



“ Sandy, Liz, and Alex, we are deeply saddened by the tragic death of Judge Bridges. David was an Orange Wave Band Booster Hall of Famer, always ready to help, and so proud to watch Alex perform and twirl at halftime. He loved you all so much. There was never a question about David's priorities. He loved the Lord and he loved his family. We will never forget David and we pray that you and all of your loved ones may find comfort and peace in celebrating his life well-lived.

Chris and Colleen Kosterman

Chris Kosterman - July 29, 2020 at 02:03 PM