



## Montie Gene Monzingo Ph.D.

May 4, 1940 - April 22, 2019

SMU Professor Emeritus, Dr. Montie Gene Monzingo, passed away Monday, April 22, 2019. Born to Garland W. and Maurine Walker Monzingo on May 4, 1940, in Stamford, Texas, Montie was a graduate of Stamford High School, class of 1958, and would later earn his A.S. from Tarlton Jr. College, B.A. and M.A. from North Texas State University (now the University of North Texas) and his Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Oklahoma.

He was an SMU faculty member from 1966-2009, holding leadership roles in numerous organizations, including Mathematical Science Division, Faculty Senate, Faculty Club, Student Affairs Committee and Tutorial Service and Student Center advisory boards. He also taught in SMU's Talented and Gifted Summer Program. He was the recipient of SMU's prestigious "M" Award, three Outstanding Professor Awards, the first Betty McKnight Speairs Endowed Teaching Excellence Award in Mathematics and the Distinguished University Teaching Award of the Texas Section, MMA. He served the MAA as SMU representative, chair of the Texas Section and member of the Board of Governors.

In 1998, Montie married Dr. Vivian A. Dennis, career faculty member of DCCCD. They enjoyed twenty years of extensive global travel, social engagements, civic involvement, historic preservation initiatives and much more. The couple moved from their Rockwall, TX, home to Sulphur Springs, TX, in 2016.

He had particular fondness for mechanics, art, history, music, historic preservation, philosophy, literature, travel, movies and livestock ranching. A learner by nature, he was an avid reader, tinkerer and "YouTuber," as well as a collector of books, music, classic cars, tractors, mercantile scales and especially nineteenth and early twentieth century cash registers, which he cherished. His hobbies and love of collectibles fostered enduring friendships.

His interest in genealogy led to membership and officer roles in the Sherman, Dallas and

East Fork Trinity chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution, and more recently the General Society War of 1812. He traveled the state, participating in community events, historic/veteran/memorial services and scholastic programs.

Montie was preceded in death by his father, Garland Monzingo, a WWII U.S. Army sergeant interred in the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten, Netherlands, which lead to Montie's membership in the American WWII Orphans Network and his service as the American delegate for the annual wreath laying ceremony in 2017. Montie is also preceded in death by his mother and stepfather, Maurine Walker Monzingo and A.C. Robinson, as well as brothers Douglas Monzingo and Mike Robinson and nephew, Allen Monzingo.

Montie is survived by his wife, Vivian, nephews Jeff (Sandy) Monzingo and Mike (Suzie) Monzingo, as well as numerous cousins, great-nieces and nephews, extended family and a host of dear friends.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution in his memory to the Old Saltillo United Methodist Church, a rural community church Montie lovingly supported through works and deeds: OSUMC, P.O. Box 208, Saltillo, TX 75482.

A celebration of Montie's life will be held 2:30pm Saturday, May 4, 2019, at Reflections at Rest Haven Funeral Home-Rockwall Location. A gathering of family and friends will take place prior to the service, beginning at 1:00pm.

The family would like to acknowledge the following pallbearers for honoring their loved one: Patrick Bogan, Robert E. Lee Capps, Jr., Larry Daniel, Carl Hendin, Larry Monzingo, Trapper Pace, Dr. Darwin Payne, and Dr. Ronald Weak.

# Events

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**MAY** **Gathering** 01:00PM - 02:30PM

**4**

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

**MAY** **Funeral Service** 02:30PM

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# Comments

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“ I just learned of Dr. Monzingo's passing and want to extend my condolences to the family. He was my calculus professor in 1968. I remember what a wonderful teacher he was and how he cared about his students. He will be missed by everyone who knew him.

Karen L Finlay



Karen L. Finlay - May 11 at 03:26 PM

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“ Vivian,

I was shocked and very sorry to hear about Montie. I have many fond memories and will share some of the more humorous ones in hopes that it will be a comfort to you. I met Montie when I arrived as a new faculty member at SMU. Three young professors, Montie, Richard and I became what the department called the Three Musketeers or maybe it was the Three Messketeers. That may have started when we all decided to have a mustache growing contest about four weeks before the first department Christmas Party. Montie was a clear winner with Richard a very close second. I tagged along and folks asked me why I wasn't growing one.

Charlie Pipes joined us for golf every Thursday and we eventually ended up playing in Mesquite. Montie on occasion would get frustrated with his game (of course none of the rest of us did). After golf we would head for Dan's Famous Hamburgers for several frosty mugs of Michelob beer and hamburgers often a couple a piece. One occasion I remember was Montie throwing his cart, bag and clubs in a pond after hitting three golf balls in the water. He would not go get them so we went to Dan's to console him. After several beers, we decided to go back and get the clubs and Montie went home that night with clubs and mud up to his rear end. We always enjoyed the Byron Nelson Golf Tournament at Preston Trails and going out with Montie to walk the fairways with his hometown friend Charles Coody. Got to meet several pro golfers as a result.

He was a consummate restorer from his Corvette to his old house near Fair Park in Dallas. He couldn't resist fixing something up, He was a logical person to ask for help when we started redoing the old sorority house to become a faculty club. His nemesis was teaching Mary Jane to paint when she couldn't learn to use a roller without getting it in her hair.

Montie was a fanatic about fairness. Not sure he ever got over SMU firing Hayden Fry and continued to post Fry's successes on departmental bulletin boards for several years. He was always for the underdog and that may be what made him an outstanding teacher. We always enjoyed your Christmas cards and letters. Never knew what new animals or other projects were going to show up.

One of the funniest stories came when we were at a Texas Section Meeting at Texas Tech. We had set through a long banquet and when it was over headed for the restroom. I finished first and as I left turned off the light. Montie, Charlie and Richard were giggling and fussing about the lights and I was out side when a couple of other gents started in. They heard the commotion, looked at each other and headed off in another direction to find another toilet. Thought Montie was going to make me walk back to the motel after that.

We will miss his good humor, his good will and his insistence on fairness. We are sorry for your and our loss.

**Vic Morgan Ph.D.** - May 03 at 05:48 PM

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“ Vivian, I will always treasure my last ride in Montie's Model A in the Veterans parade. It was so cold, but you provided a blanket for me and Maggie Mae. Montie's smile lit up a room. His energy left me tired. He was the sweetest man and I will forever cherish getting to know him. He will be missed at the Hopkins County Genealogy Library. He was a good friend. Love, Shirley Patchen

**Shirley Patchen** - April 26 at 10:15 PM



“ Vivian, I told you some 20 plus years ago to go find a good man to help keep you warm on “cold winter nights” you did a very good job on this, in fact, a super job. You and Montie matched so well!! We have enjoyed your company on many occasions and will miss those visits You take care of Vivian. Love to you, Jo Ann

**Jo AnnAgee** - May 01 at 04:43 PM

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“ Dr. Monzingo made the math department a very welcoming place. His joy and enthusiasm for the subject was infectious and created a sense of family that we could see even as undergraduates. He has a special place in our hearts.

**April Kramer Andreas** - April 25 at 03:29 PM

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“ I was truly heartbroken at the news of Montie's death and to know that I would never see my great friend again. He played a very important part in my life during our time together at SMU. For the first time, really, I felt to be home at SMU and at the Faculty Club where Montie was president and I was secretary and Carl Hendin was the manager of the club. We had some wonderful times together at lunch, with Richard Williams, too, who was a math professor like Montie and also a great friend. Montie was a joy to be around, always interesting, always cordial, and always fun. He intrigued me with one of his special mathematical interests which I had never heard of--the odd Fibonacci series of numbers: 3,5,8,13,21, 34,etc., which sometimes is used by traders in the futures markets. We stayed in touch after we both retired, always determined to visit one another and staying in touch by email. And Vivian, I send you my warmest thoughts as you undertake the life you two shared together with so many common interests.

Darwin Payne

Darwin Payne - April 25 at 01:14 PM

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“ I am so sorry for your loss. I did not know him personally but know of him by being in the math department at SMU. What I do know is that he was loved by the students and was very active with undergraduates. It is clear that he influenced the mathematical lives of many students and will be missed.

Brandilyn Stigler - April 25 at 01:11 PM

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“ Vivian, my heart goes out to you. Montie was such a part of my life for so many TAG summers. I looked forward to each morning as he would start my day with a chat and a smile. His humor and spirit will live on in the hearts and minds of so many students, faculty, and friends.

Marilyn Swanson

Marilyn Swanson - April 25 at 12:36 PM

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“ My heart is heavy. Vivian, I want you to know that you are embraced with comfort and understanding. I will never forget your outreach to me when my heart was heavy, my needs were overwhelming. You were there for me. I will never forget looking out to see you and Montie standing in reverence of Charles' life as he was laid to rest. I will never forget you and the " ladies of Eastfield" delivering at the perfect time a beautifully prepared meal for my out of town guests. I hurt for you, Grady and I share your loss. We are here for you. Cynthia Bowlin

cynthia bowlin - April 25 at 01:32 AM



“ Vivian, there are just no words to convey how precious you and Montie have been to us. Vivian, you're always the perfect lady, except maybe when you're chasing the Longhorns. And Montie, God Bless, always wearing a red shirt to herd the Longhorns. Montie is the nicest and smartest friend ever and what a quick and wonderful sense of humor. Vivian, we love you both - please do not hesitate to ask for anything you need us to do. Montie will be missed by so many. If we can help you do double duty, you only have to ask. Love always,  
Lou & Larry

**Lou Briley Daniel** - April 25 at 01:15 PM



“ Visiting with Montie between our classes in Dedman Hall at SMU was always a pleasure. He had a wonderful sense of humor and a wonderful smile. He and Vivian were always so nice to show my family the caboose and all their llamas, burros and longhorns on their land in East Texas. What great memories.

Betty Nelson and Gina Walker-Hughes family

**Betty Nelson** - April 25 at 05:03 PM



“ I knew Montie in his younger Stamford days, my parents went to Trinity Baptist with Maureen, his mom. He and Doug about 3 & 4 years younger than me. I really got to know him when he came to Stamford HS class reunions. We visited a lot. I am proud of his educational achievements. and the fine man he became.

Barbara Bean Billington

**Barbara Billington** - April 25 at 06:32 PM



“ I am saddened to learn of Montie's death and offer my heartfelt sympathies to his family. Montie was a class act. I always enjoyed visiting and working with him. His love of teaching was always so obvious. He left SMU a better place.

Kindest regards,

John Hall

**John A. Hall** - April 25 at 11:40 PM



“ My dear Vivian, I hurt for you and remembering how kind you and Montie were when my children died. I remember Montie working crossword puzzles and letting me sample some of his "no dairy products" concoctions and they were delicious, and working and sweating at the cemetery. He was a great guy. I loved him.

Ardys Dennis

**Ardys Dennis** - April 27 at 12:24 PM



“ Montie joined the SMU Mathematics Department one year after I did and we enjoyed many good times for decades. We went to lunch several times per week, discussing everything from math to politics to baseball, with lots of jokes thrown in. Montie had a great sense of humor and a huge repertoire of jokes. We played golf with Charlie Pipes and Vic Morgan and we enjoyed attending SMU athletics events. He was a wonderful teacher and he had an amazing list of interests, all of which he excelled in. He will be missed and he will never be forgotten.

Richard Williams

**Richard K. Williams** - April 28 at 12:23 AM



“ I was a graduate student at SMU in the early 70's, and many of my classes were taught by Montie. He was a terrific teacher, and we later became good friends. He was truly a multidimensional thinker .Though we didn't see each other often in later years, it was always a grand reunion when we did. I shall miss him greatly.

Michael Winn

**michael winn** - April 30 at 10:17 AM



“ Vivian, we are so sorry for your loss! You are certainly in our thoughts and prayers! We have really enjoyed getting to know you and Montie and having lunch with you at Plain and Fancy. He was such a kind and delightful person! He will certainly be missed!

Tim and Barbara Taylor

**Tim and Barbara Taylor** - April 30 at 03:39 PM



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**Vic Morgan** - May 02 at 03:43 PM



“ Miss Vivian, I am so very sorry to hear about Montie passing. I didn't know him personally but I see he was so loved by many. I've always admired all you and Montie have done for our sweet little church in Old Saltillo. May God be with you and give you comfort and peace, now and the days to come. Condolences from me and my family. Dana and Jerry Eatherly

**Dana Eatherly** - May 03 at 12:42 PM