



## Joe Tom Davis

July 7, 1938 - April 1, 2020

Joe Tom Davis, 81, of El Campo, passed away April 1, 2020. He was born in Smiley, Texas on July 7, 1938 to the late H.C. and Lorene Smith Davis. Joe Tom served in the U.S. Navy and was a history professor at Wharton County Junior College.

He is survived by his wife, Kathy Hastedt Davis of El Campo; daughter, Stephanie Menefee Rasmussen and husband Jay of Cedar Park and their children, Colin, Ty and Zane; daughter, Sarah Menefee Parish and husband Britten of Alvin and their children Reid, Ava and Rhett; son, Thornton Menefee and wife Jessica of Houston and their child, Becca; brother, Cecil Davis and wife Pat of El Campo; niece, Susan Davis Stockton and husband Kinnan; nephews, Stephen Davis, John Mark Bonnot and wife Penny and Brent Bonnot; one great-niece and three great-nephews.

Joe Tom was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Shirley Davis Bonnot.

Due to these uncertain times, private services will be held with the family. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Pallbearers will be Thornton Menefee, Jay Rasmussen, Britten Parish, Stephen Davis, Colin Rasmussen, Ty Rasmussen and Reid Parish.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in memory of Joe Tom may be made to the First Baptist Church of El Campo General Fund, 206 Depot St., El Campo, TX 77437 or Houston Hospice - El Campo, P.O. Box 1417, El Campo, TX 77437.

Condolences may be shared with the family online at [www.triskafuneralhome.com](http://www.triskafuneralhome.com).

Triska Funeral Home, El Campo, 979-543-3681

# Tribute Wall

MB

“ Bobby loved Joe Tom so much and learned to appreciate his dry sense of humor when they were in the church choir together. He was so sweet to call and give inspiring talks when Bobby's health declined. He was a larger than life kind of guy. He was such a wonderful speaker and taught all his life. I could call and ask about yard problems and he always knew the answer. His books were treasures to us. He will certainly be missed. Kathy, I admire your devotion and care shown Joe Tom as his health failed. Your love for one another shined all the days you had together. We were all blessed to have had him in our lives. We loved him so much for his faith and love of God. Know the peace he has in Heaven and infuse yourself with it as we adjust to a new and different life. Love Toodie

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**Maureen Brady** - November 24, 2020 at 08:31 PM

VM

“ Great teacher. I learned a lot about history that I never knew before. Sorry to hear of his way to early demise.

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**Vikijane Mosier** - November 16, 2020 at 01:48 PM

CS

“ Today I was reading one of Joe Tom’s books and I thought I would give them a call. It has been a year to since I talk to him last but I just thought it would be great to talk to him. I went to the Internet to get his phone number and I saw his obituary. I can’t tell you how heartbroken I was because he was a great man, a great college professor and one heck of a Texas Historian. I’m so glad I own his books because there was no one that did a better job ever teaching about Texas history. Today’s family, please except our deepest and belated condolences. I would appreciate knowing if there ever is a memorial service so that I can attend. My brother Paul can give you the contact information if you ever need it.

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**Charles Soechting**, - August 28, 2020 at 08:27 PM



“ I’m so sorry to see that Professor Davis had passed. I was one of his students back in 1990 at WCJC. I was reading an article about the Texas Rangers (law enforcement), and I remembered his discussions about them in class. He has such an authoritative command of Texas history. Professor Davis was a historical Texas figure in his own right.

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**John White** - June 04, 2020 at 05:44 PM

HS

“ I taught history with Joe Tom for 15 years at WCJC. I taught the Texas History classes after he retired. I really admired Joe Tom and I truly loved being his fellow history teacher. My the Lord ease your loss for a great human being. Sincerely yours: Harold W. Shilk

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**harold w shilk** - April 09, 2020 at 12:35 PM

MS

“ I wasn't aware that Joe Tom had passed away. He was a wonderful person and an excellent instructor. He made students WANT to go to his class.



*My deepest condolences to his family; he will be missed by many.*

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**Martin Strarup** - April 08, 2020 at 03:26 PM

PB

“ Mr. Davis was the greatest instructor! I was blessed to have him at WCJC! I admired him so much. He was a role model to me as I began my 31 years of teaching. He once told me that history was just telling stories. He found a way to engage and motivated his students to learn. He loved God and truly cared about people. I pray for comfort and peace for his family. He will be greatly missed!

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**Patty Brady** - April 07, 2020 at 04:33 PM

KD

*Thank you, Patty. Joe always spoke very highly of you , saying you were one of the best students he taught in his thirty-seven year teaching career.*

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**kathy davis** - April 20, 2020 at 11:45 AM

KA

“ Kari lit a candle in memory of Joe Tom Davis



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**kari** - April 05, 2020 at 08:41 PM

CR

“ *Cindy Riha lit a candle in memory of Joe Tom Davis*



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**Cindy Riha** - April 05, 2020 at 12:42 PM

BO

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**BOB** - April 04, 2020 at 07:31 PM

EC

“ *Elaine Cook lit a candle in memory of Joe Tom Davis*



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**Elaine Cook** - April 04, 2020 at 06:58 PM

TR

“ *Joe Tom was a unique and gifted man who gave fully of his time and talents to bless others. He will be greatly missed!*  
*Travis and Cheryl Raun*

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**Travis and Cheryl Raun** - April 04, 2020 at 01:53 PM

LD

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Joe Tom obviously was a very loved and respected man in your family and community. My sympathy to all your Davis family.

*Lisa Davis*

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**Lisa Ann Davis** - April 04, 2020 at 12:57 PM

BE

“ I cannot begin to say how very sorry I am for the loss of your beloved Joe Tom! He was such a fine gentleman who positively touched so many lives., including mine. He was such an inspiration as an outstanding historian, interesting conversationalist, and a true Christian in his words and deeds.

*May angels' wings envelop you, your family, and your friends with their wings to bring comfort and peace. Joe Tom's memory will live in the hearts of countless people.*

*With sympathy,  
Beverly Eddings*

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**Beverly Eddings** - April 03, 2020 at 07:05 PM

TB

“ I know Bobby was first in line to welcome Joe Tom into the Glory of Heaven. We always thought of Joe as one of our best friends. He and Bobby were quite the comedy team in choir with Cecil egging them on. I am blessed to have had Joe in my life. Life for him was well lived and shared with so many. I am ready to see everyone who has already crossed over. He will be missed until we meet again.

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**toodie brady** - April 03, 2020 at 03:00 PM

RP

“ So sorry for your loss. Joe Tom was such a kind and thoughtful man. He will be missed. Rose Pasak

Rose Pasak - April 03, 2020 at 01:45 PM

PS

“ Prayers for Joe Tom's family & many friends. I was honored to teach alongside him back in 1996, and pick up the Texas History duties when he retired. A great Texas historian has passed! Paul N Spellman, Professor of Texas History, WCJC

Paul N. Spellman - April 03, 2020 at 11:54 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joe Tom Davis.



April 03, 2020 at 11:05 AM

JM

“ Joe Tom was a close friend when we taught and shared an office together at Sam Houston State in the early 1960s. He was a fine man; there should be more like him!  
Jim Maroney

Jim Maroney - April 03, 2020 at 10:32 AM

CS

“ I so admired Joe Tom for his strength of character and his faith. I will continue to be inspired by the actions he took and the things he said while he was alive. He will live on in our memories. He was a good man.  
Carol Slaughter



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**Carol Slaughter** - April 03, 2020 at 10:29 AM

JL

“ I'm going to miss my "post office buddy" so much. He was always so upbeat and cheerful. Kathy, you and your family are in my prayers. I know he had not been well, and I'm grateful that he is no longer suffering. Jane Ottley Luco

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**Jane Ottley Luco** - April 03, 2020 at 10:03 AM

BF

“ Joe Tom was a wonderful Christian man. I got to know him at breakfast at church. He was a beautiful, caring man.

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**Bonnie Freeman** - April 03, 2020 at 09:09 AM

RJ

“ I'm so sadden to see this post. I can remember the first time Cecil talked him into getting his hair cut from me back in 1976. One of my first & a favorite customer of mine. Joe Tom always had a smile on his face, something positive to say and such a joy to visit with. He was a loyal customer and a friend. My prayers are with you all.  
Sincerely,  
Raunda Wittig Janssen

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**Raunda Wittig Janssen** - April 03, 2020 at 02:04 AM

VR

*So sad to hear. My friend Gerri and I saw him several years ago on a cruise. It was nice to see him and meet his wife. He and my brother Jack were good friends in high school playing basketball together as well as band. My prayers for his family 🙏🙏*

**Victoria Roberson** - April 03, 2020 at 10:34 AM

RK

*Joe Tom was always such a distinguished gentleman, friendly to anyone he met on his daily visits in town. He touched many on his Christian journey. My sympathy to his loving family.*

**Rosalie Knebel** - April 03, 2020 at 11:58 AM

DA

*“ Kathy, my thoughts and prayers are with you and our family. Joe Tom was so friendly and always had a kind word. I will miss seeing him at the Heritage Center.*

**Doris Adamcik** - April 02, 2020 at 11:51 PM

RM

*“ He was one of the greatest instructors! His love of Texas and our history was amazing and admired. Sympathy and prayers for the Davis family.*

**Renee Foegelle Mitchell** - April 02, 2020 at 10:12 PM

GD

*“ So saddened to read this, did not know he was ill. My love and condolences to you Kathy, to Cecil and Pat and your families. Joe Tom was such a nice man and will be greatly missed.*

*My love and my prayers to each of you.*

*Gloria Dowden*

**Gloria Dowden** - April 02, 2020 at 09:11 PM

TH

“ We are grateful for the years we were able to serve the Lord with the kind and gentle Joe Tom Davis. We send our love and prayers to Mrs. Kathy and the rest of the Davis family, what a legacy he left.

Travis and Meagan Hogg - April 02, 2020 at 08:37 PM

MS

“ What a great teacher. One of my favorite college professors. RIP Mr. Davis. 🙏🙏🙏 for the family.

Margaret Sitka - April 02, 2020 at 08:23 PM

RO

“ To a long time friend we are saddened to hear that Joe Tom has passed away. Really great memories dating back to high school days. Our thoughts and prayers to the family at this time of sorrow. Judy and Roy Charles Ortolon - Edna, TX

Roy & Judy Ortolon - April 02, 2020 at 08:18 PM

AM

“ Andrea McCann lit a candle in memory of Joe Tom Davis



Andrea McCann - April 02, 2020 at 07:28 PM

CI

“ Joe Tom was such a great Christian warrior everywhere I ever saw him with an infectious smile & encouraging words for everyone. I met him while singing with the community choir @ Garden Villa where he was so faithful N leading that service week after week for such a long time. His witness will be sorely missed in the church choir & in so many other places. Condolences to Kathy & the entire family & looking forward to joining Joe Tom one day when God calls us home.

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**Carolyn Into** - April 02, 2020 at 07:08 PM

JF

*Joe Tom was a great colleague !  
What a legacy he left !  
We are greatly saddened.*

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**James D. Fanning** - April 03, 2020 at 01:02 AM

AM

“ Joe Tom was a true gentleman and scholar. His generosity of spirit touched me and my family. My deepest condolences Kathy, Stephanie, Thornton, Sarah and Cecil. Love, Ashley Pinchback Moran and family

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**Ashley Moran** - April 02, 2020 at 07:04 PM

MW

“ He was a true historian with a passion for his trade. It was a pleasure to have met him. We cherish his books...he was a Texas treasure! Thank you Joe Tom Davis. Rest well.

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**Myra Wynn** - April 02, 2020 at 06:50 PM

DH

“ Kathy and family,

*I am so sorry. Joe Tom was the definition of Good Character. He was a wonderful person. I know that your family and many others will dearly miss him. I am sending your family prayers . Donna Hicks*

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**Donna Hicks** - April 02, 2020 at 06:49 PM

BP

“ *Mr. Davis was my history teacher at WCJC in 1974. He was such a major influence in my life that I became a history teacher. Over the years Mr. Davis and I keep in touch and once he came to speak to my students and shared his enthusiasm for Texas History. Undeserved I felt, but he told me that I was one of his best students. I will always have a special place in my heart for this giant of a man. RIP friend. Billy Polk retired educator.*

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**Billy Polk** - April 02, 2020 at 06:45 PM

KS

“ *Mr. Davis was one of my all time favorite teachers. I took every history class he taught when I was at the Jr. College & read most of his books. He made me love history! He had the kindest heart & I was so glad when he & Kathy found each other. She gave him the family he was missing. I will miss his wonderful stories, his beautiful voice, but most of all his loving spirit. Rest In Peace my friend ❤️🙏*

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**Kelly Socha** - April 02, 2020 at 05:15 PM

RS

“ Before any of us married, Joe Tom, I, and a couple other bachelor teachers at WCJC would often go to Pioneer basketball games together after eating together at the Cafe in Hungerford, where they served T bone and chicken fried steaks larger than the platters they were on. Joe Tom was a brilliant conversationalist, with politics being the main talking subject at dinner and coaches and basketball players our game time conversation. Fond memories. Heartfelt prayers for his family, Ray Spitzenberger

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**Ray Spitzenberger** - April 02, 2020 at 05:10 PM

EB

“ Loved listening to and watching him song. His face lit up with joy whenever he was singing. He was one of the sweetest men I ever met.

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**Edith Benton** - April 02, 2020 at 05:10 PM

WF

“ With much love, The Policke Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Joe Tom Davis.



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**With much love, The Policke Family** - April 02, 2020 at 04:33 PM

DB

“ Sending our sympathy. May the Lord comfort you at this time. Dorothy and Leslie Bacak

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**Dorothy Bacak** - April 02, 2020 at 04:21 PM

VP

“ Joe was such a joy to be around. He had a way of making everyone around him feel special. He would often share his love of history and education with my students and anyone who was in earshot! We all learned so much from Joe! He was an excellent step-father and grandfather to his own, but also to my kids. He welcomed them whenever he could (summer/Easter)! I am sure he is smiling down from heaven and loving us from above! Thank you for so many memories:)

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**Victoria Policke** - April 02, 2020 at 04:20 PM

JT

“ We're so very sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. 🙏  
With deepest sympathy, John and Kathy Tumlinson

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**John and Kathy Tumlinson** - April 02, 2020 at 03:36 PM

AB

“ My deepest condolences to the Davis family. Mr. Davis was an excellent teacher and I felt privileged to know him and learn from him. This is a true loss to our community and Texas.

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**Amy Leach Benson** - April 02, 2020 at 03:21 PM

DO

“ My prayers to the whole Davis Family. May you be lifted in prayer during this difficult time. God Bless you all. 🙏

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**Doris Ochoa** - April 02, 2020 at 03:14 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joe Tom Davis.*



April 02, 2020 at 03:01 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss and condolences to Joe Tom Davis' family. He was a faithful servant of Christ Jesus and shared his faith through many years of singing in FBC choir.*



**Rhonda Teets** - April 02, 2020 at 02:51 PM



*Joe Tom Davis was the epitome of what a true Christian should be. He will truly be missed by his First Baptist family. Prayers for the family, Chris and Brenda Rogers*

**Chris and Brenda Rogers** - April 02, 2020 at 08:32 PM



“ *What a wonderful man. Joe Tom was in our bible study class and we learned so much history from him. You will forever be remembered by the Kanas*



**Paula Kana** - April 02, 2020 at 02:48 PM



*So sad to hear of Joe Tom's passing. I always enjoyed speaking with him. Love to all the family.*

**lorie van gorp** - April 02, 2020 at 03:11 PM

JR

“ So sorry to hear this tragic news. He was a great man, always smiling, always willing to share his time and stories. He will be missed by everyone who knew him. My condolences and prayers for Kathy and the family he left behind. He truly loved each and everyone of you with his entire being. May the Good Lord wrap his Almighty arms around you to give you strength, comfort and understanding. RIP Joe Tom.

Janie Roehl - April 02, 2020 at 02:47 PM

BS

“ So very sorry to see this notice! Joe Tom was a great man!! His teaching and singing in the FBC choir touched many families. Sending our prayers during this time. Sincerely James and Barbara Sides

Barbara Sides - April 02, 2020 at 02:33 PM

JH

“ Sending our condolences to Joe Tom Davis family. 🙏



Jean and Donald Henderson - April 02, 2020 at 01:41 PM

CR

“ Carole Roades lit a candle in memory of Joe Tom Davis



Carole Roades - April 02, 2020 at 01:34 PM

CR

*I know how much this man will be missed. He was a true gentleman. I'm so sorry.*

**Carole Rodes** - April 02, 2020 at 01:35 PM

DP

*He was a great historian. I enjoyed his class at WCJC. My condolences to the family.*

**Denise Prochazka** - April 02, 2020 at 01:45 PM

SF

*What a wonderful man! Hearts a breaking everywhere as this world will never be the same.*

**Stacey FORGASON** - April 02, 2020 at 02:16 PM

FK

*What a great guy! My sympathy to the entire family.  
Fran Kyle*

**Frances A Kyle** - April 02, 2020 at 02:24 PM

TM

*Dear Davis family and members. So sorry for your loss. He was such an inspirational speaker . My mom loved it when Kathy and Joe would come to her room and take her to bible study at Garden Villa.  
Pat & Terry Martin*

**Terry Martin** - April 03, 2020 at 07:16 PM