



David Eric Stepp

February 10, 1947 - February 26, 2021

David Eric Stepp, 74, of Bartlesville, formerly of Mesquite, Texas, died Friday in Bartlesville. He was a lifelong teacher, child of God, and devoted son, husband, father and grandfather.

David was born the son of John B and Pearl Therese (Riveland) Stepp on February 10, 1947, in Greenville, SC. His father an ordained pastor and missionary took the family to the mission field in Sao Paulo, Brazil, for several years before settling in Mesquite. David graduated from Mesquite High School in 1965 and furthered his education at Baylor University completing his bachelor's degree in three years.

While home on break he met the love of his life Emily Gail Mabry at the First Baptist Church of Mesquite where his father pastored. They united in marriage on June 1, 1968, with Dr. John B Stepp officiating, and made their home in Waco, Texas, where David completed his master's degree at Baylor. While in Waco, they were blessed with two beautiful children, Emily and Eric. David also began his teaching career during this time.

The family moved back to Mesquite when a position opened up at his former alma mater where David taught senior English for the next 27 years, retiring in 2000. Retirement was not for David and he joined Bishop Lynch Catholic High School for the next 13 years, teaching a total of 45 years. David and Gail

moved to Bartlesville in 2019 to be closer to their daughter and family.

David's passions in life were simple. He was a Son of the American Revolution, a descendent of early patriots, promoting understanding of the American Independence journey. An avid reader, David finished a book every single day. He loved music and kept up with his favorite artists from all eras and genres but especially the American folk music trio Peter, Paul and Mary, attending five of their live concerts. David also enjoyed playing the harmonica and Spanish guitar. Time spent with Gail at home was precious, and they enjoyed talking about everything together.

David was baptized at age five, and he loved and served the Lord as Sunday School teacher for adults and children. Teaching was his calling and his profession, and David also made time to serve as a cub scout leader, coaching life skills and building character. Former students often kept in touch with David long after and they would reach out to their former teacher to share achievements and to thank him for his dedication to them during their school days. David loved and was loved, and he will be dearly missed by all those lives he touched.

David is survived by his loving wife Gail of the home; mother Pearl Stepp; daughter Emily Claire Nelson (David); three sisters Kathryn Gail Tinius (Don), Rebecca Jo Stepp and Rachel Elizabeth Stepp; three grandchildren, Xavier David Nelson, Angela Alexandra Nelson and Lizet Yojana Nelson; and two nephews Austin John-Paul Tinius and Adam Ralston Tinius. He is preceded in death by his father and son Christopher Eric Stepp.

Graveside services will be held at the Restland Memorial Park Cemetery, Dallas, TX with Pastor Jim Burt officiating. Services are under the direction of Carter Davis and the Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory – Walker Brown Chapel. Online condolences and remembrances may be shared at ww

w.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com.

Tribute Wall

AW

“ To the beautiful family of Professor David Stepp! There are no words which can express how much David meant to me. He was so many wonderful things. Sometimes he would joke about having a school named after himself... to me, there is such a school. His school transcends any physical building; his school lives in my heart and soul. I could write thousands of words about all he gave to us... oh the stories of joy, love, laughter, wit, wisdom...they are endless! What a beautiful mind and soul. He is with our Lord now. And how the angels sang as he went to his eternal home... of this, I have no doubt. I'm sending all my love to all of you. With gratitude and admiration, Angie Wills Wilson - fellow teacher and member of the Third Period gang 🥰🕊️

Angie Wilson - December 05, 2025 at 07:47 PM

MM

“ My most memorable teacher, who had us write our essays with a fountain pen, who gave me a hard time for showing up with a hickey, and bought pizza for the class in exchange for keeping quiet about his secret drags on his smokes. I absolutely loved his class. I've never forgotten him and still love the books he had us read.

Melany (Taylor) Morrison - July 18, 2025 at 09:32 PM

MC

“ I was reading something this morning encouraging us to 'thank a teacher who made a difference' and thought, "gee, I should tell Mr. Stepp!". Then looked up only to find this saddening news...
Mr. Stepp, you were literally the teacher who made the most difference for me - your (Mesquite HS) junior Honors English class was tough (some of my worst grades ever!), but gave me skills that I use to this day. I survived college (with a BA in English lit, no less) because of your Friday 'pop-essays', where I had to learn to quickly think about points I wanted to make, express them concisely, and get them down on paper in less than an hour. You introduced me to literature that forced me to expand beyond Shakespeare and see the broader world - I'll never forget the moment you shared a hidden point with me when I was the first to finish "Of Human Bondage".
So: thank you. Thank you for your enthusiasm ensure we saw beyond the basic district curriculum. Thank you for forcing us to learn how to really utilize our noggins, not just recite the basics via rote exercises. Thank you for you.
To Mr. Stepp's family: please know he made such an amazing difference in so many lives (including, I'm sure, your own). Thank you for sharing him with us - my parents and aunt were also teachers, so I know the time it takes away from 'family time' to create lesson plans, grade papers, etc. I can guarantee you he will never be forgotten because of who he was for us all.
Maria (Springer) Carter

M Carter - January 05, 2022 at 11:56 AM

PH

“ I am saddened to hear of Mr. Stepps passing. Over the years I casually tried to find him on the internet to reconnect and sadly we did not. Mr. Stepp was my favorite teacher from 1st grade to my doctoral work. It has been since 1984 that I sat in his class room but I still use to this day his format in writing papers and documents. He made English come alive and I am forever in his debt. I'm sorry I didn't go to Baylor Mr Stepp but I turned out just fine. I hope his family finds this post and it gives them comfort and joy in his life well spent.

Paul Heath - May 26, 2021 at 09:56 AM

BY

“ He was an amazing teacher. I had him for sophomore English and he made literature explode and writing easy. His conversations were always fun and interesting. I was "married" in his class for an assignment once. You never knew what his lesson would involve. He was one of the best.

Beverly York - March 09, 2021 at 08:49 PM

L(

“ Mr. Stepp was my teacher in high-school. He taught me a huge lesson about life...you get what you give. I was younger at the time and didn't quite know what he meant by it but later I knew exactly what he meant and it changed my life. I wish I could have told him that. Rest in peace and much love ❤️

Lisa Wells (Cowan) - March 09, 2021 at 06:03 AM

AO

“ David and I often spoke in Portuguese. He loved saying a few words to me in the hallway since I am from Portugal. He was always so cheery, kind and helpful. I will miss our little chats. My most sincere condolences.

Ana Osborne
Spanish Teacher
Bishop Lynch High School

Ana Osborne - March 06, 2021 at 12:35 PM

CR

“ I thank Mr. Stepp for my love of writing. While in his class, I despised the busy work of writing essays. However, while in college, that practice was my saving grace. He helped me learn to channel my thoughts into my writing which helped me to grieve the loss of a friend my junior year and I was always so grateful for that. He was a fantastic teacher. You could really tell that he loved what he did and I am thankful to have experienced that. My prayers and condolences to his family.

Caty (Cahill) Rambo - Bishop Lynch, Class of 2008

Catherine Rambo - March 05, 2021 at 05:20 PM

JR

“ I taught with David at Mesquite High School in the 1970's. I was lucky enough to have the same "off-period" as he did two years in a row.

I've known hundreds of teachers in my career but David was the best. He had a God-given talent for teaching that no one else had. He made a difference in the lives of so many hundreds of students over the years. His was a life well-lived.

Jim Rusk

Jim Rusk - March 03, 2021 at 05:24 PM

KN

“ David & I were two old codgers with eventually a total of 93 years of teaching before we both retired by 2014. Usually I would get a cup of coffee at 7 in the morning & go by his room & sit in that huge chair he brought from home & discuss what was going on. He was pretty computer savvy compared to me so he would help with the latest project we dinosaurs (born in the 40s) were supposed to learn. David was old-school with his teaching & really loved his 13 years at BL. RIP David. You had a life well lived.

Ken Norman - March 02, 2021 at 07:45 PM

MH

“ My prayers are extended to David’s family. I know you are hurting, but remember the life he lived. He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He was dedicated to the craft of teaching and took delight in watching his young charges grow in their love of learning.

David and I shared many a good book together as well as a few duds. I will miss our discussions about what we were reading and our “life-talks”. I always looked forward to going by his classroom at BL to see what was going on. His impact on the students he taught during his tenures at MHS and BL cannot be measured. He will be truly missed.

Mike Hall

Mike Hall - March 02, 2021 at 07:23 PM

JM

“ Deepest sympathy is extended to David’s family and friends. I remember stopping by David’s classroom at Bishop Lynch almost every morning for years to visit a little before the first bell. David was an outstanding and very patient teacher, beloved by his students and fellow teachers. He was very proud of having once performed an acting role in a high school musical while a teacher at Mesquite High School. David often spoke lovingly of his family to his school friends. We all knew of his devotion to his wife, son and daughter, and his grandchildren. There was a group of us older teachers at BL who met for lunch at Luby’s in Casa Linda at the end of each semester to celebrate, and David continued to join us for years at this end-of-term luncheon, even after retiring from BL. He had a great sense of humor, he loved to laugh, and he was a wonderful storyteller. Such a good man and close friend, he will be sorely missed by all of us. Jeff Morrow

Jeff Morrow - March 02, 2021 at 06:54 PM