



Terry Booth

September 21, 1940 - August 11, 2020

Terry Lee Booth, 79, Topeka, Kansas died Tuesday, August 11, 2020.

Terry was born in Staples, Minnesota on September 21, 1940, to Charles Guy and Mary Elizabeth (Longbella) Booth. He was raised in Osseo, Minnesota graduating from Osseo High School in 1958 where he was active in theater, music, debate, yearbook, AV projection squad, and track. As a young boy and throughout his life he was an outdoorsman, eventually committed to bow-and-arrow marksmanship and catch-and-release fishing with his grandson.

Following three years in the Navy as a missile man, he enrolled in the University of Minnesota where he majored in anthropology and minored in geology and art, graduating with a BA in 1966. He earned an MA in anthropology at the University of New Mexico in 1969 and began teaching at Washburn University in Topeka that fall. While teaching full-time, he finished the classwork and Ph. D dissertation in Educational Anthropology at the University of Kansas in 1987.

His academic interests within anthropology broadened through his 32 years of teaching. He began as an archaeologist and morphed into a teacher who saw relationships between historic and current cultural phenomena and his science: schooling, race relations, peace studies, and conflict resolution. He was awarded three Sweet Summer Sabbaticals each to locations where he

further validated his academic credentials by observation and experience. The first was a solo trip to indigenous sites in the South Pacific. Next, he camped with his family through two nine-week summers in a VW bus while navigating a butterfly shaped route through Native American sites in the US and Canada. Terry was determined to teach his students research skills. He had a career-long practice of onsite instruction in Washburn's Mabee Library. After retirement genealogy became a passion as he researched the branches of his family of origin.

Throughout his life Terry was a conservationist committed to caring for the natural world and repurposing man-made objects that had outlived their usefulness. For several years in the '80's his home was warmed daily by multiple solar panels of black painted drink cans fronted with recycled wood framed storm windows which lined the south exterior walls of the house. All winter on sunny days, hot air drifted through the adjacent windows customized with doors and latches. Much of his wood furniture was built or repurposed by him; a walnut TV console is a stereo cabinet. A school kindergarten student table refinished and outfitted with tall legs is perfect for the kitchen; bookcases, an armoire, end tables, and desks were all designed for the family's living.

Outside Terry imagined and created a park-like back yard with multiple visually appealing native stone retaining walls which divert rainwater during gully-washing rainstorms. The varietal perennial plantings in the borders provide privacy and invite contemplation. No chemicals have ever been used to control critter habitats. Sharing the crop with friends, he harvested the yield from cherry and apple trees and made jams and pies.

Terry loved to laugh, socialize with, and assist extended family and friends when he was needed. He leaves behind his wife Pat of 57 years; two adult children, Guy and Amy; a grandson, Jake; two sisters, Sandy and Dee and

their families; an aunt and uncle; two brothers-in-law and their families; nieces, a nephew, cousins; and many longtime friends who have been important in his family life and supportive of him during these last two years.

Because of Covid-19 there will be no service.

Friends and family are invited to remember Terry with gifts sent to either The Land Institute (a nonprofit developing sustainable agriculture systems) 2440 E. Water Fall Road, Salina, Kansas 67401 (landinstitute.org) or Washburn's Mabee Library addressed to The Washburn Foundation, 1729 MacVicar Avenue, Topeka, KS 66604.

Tribute Wall



“ Terry Booth

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ Sorry about Terry's death. I am glad you called me today about Terry. I really enjoyed the visits I had with you and Terry in Topeka and also at Terry's mother's memorial. Terry is one of my favorite cousins.

Dennis Jenkins - November 16, 2020 at 06:37 PM



“ Dr. Booth was a very kind and soft spoken man. Healing Prayers to the family. Amen

Ginger Webber - September 09, 2020 at 04:43 PM



“ Pat, I am sorry for your loss. The beautifully written obituary helped me to know Terry better. He will be missed by many. Know that you have many friends thinking of you as you adjust to the loss of Terry. Sending my love and a hug your to you.

Joyce Funk - August 24, 2020 at 10:24 AM

SC

“ My dearest friend Pat-I'm so very sorry for the loss of wonderful Terry. Tim and I were lucky enough to meet you the very first week we were married when I started working at Pauline South. Through you we met Terry and enjoyed stopping in for, ok, cookies for me, conversation for Tim! You both were so welcoming and took an interested in this young, newly married, clueless couple! We will miss Terry, his sweet smile, interesting conversations, and special treats. Love to you, Guy and Amy.

Sara and Tim Congrove

Sara Congrove - August 21, 2020 at 12:51 PM

DW

“ I always felt fortunate to have had Dr. Booth as an instructor at Washburn U. None of his classes ever felt like a burden to attend but something to look forward to every week. His energy and interest in people, cultures and societies were contagious. He made a substantial difference my world view. I am very sorry to hear of his passing. My condolences to the family for your great loss. Debbie Worland

Debbie Worland - August 21, 2020 at 11:07 AM

MS

“ Terry and Pat were close friends of my parents, Roman and Carmen Borgerding. I remember well the visits the four of you would have, and how at some point during that visit, Terry would come looking for "the daughters" so he could say hello, tease us a bit (or a lot), and find out what was new, what we were doing and thinking and enjoying. I can't remember him ever being in our house without spending time with us. As we grew older, Terry and Pat were that rare adult couple who continued to communicate with the younger generation, curious about our grown-up lives, interested in our choices, and supportive of our mistakes. Terry was a gift to us for many years, and I will miss his wonderful smile, his twinkling eyes, and his sincere interest in our lives. Much love to you, Pat, Guy, Amy, and Jake.

--"George" Borgerding

Martha Sellers - August 20, 2020 at 10:13 PM

TE

“ I had the honor and pleasure to have Dr. Booth as an instructor in 1970 at Washburn University in one of the old portable classrooms. Just recently, I was telling my my wife and daughter about him and the things I learned from him in his classes that are embedded in my mind forever. I was a small, rural town guy, and boy did Dr. Booth (well, he wasn't a Dr. then) open the world for me. He instilled in me a respect and appreciation for cultural differences that have served me well in my career as a middle school Social Studies teacher and as I endeavor to be a compassionate citizen in my daily life. His knowledge, perception, and willingness to listen to others' concerns made me eager to attend his classes. Dr. Booth's messages certainly could do the U.S. well today. He left tis world a better place

Ted G. Ensley - August 20, 2020 at 01:53 PM



“ So sorry to hear of his death. I knew him well we shared many years at the Washburn in the Sociology Department. He was committed to his discipline and loved passing it on to his students. I haven't seen him for several years oddly enough I was going through the WU retirees list and saw his name it brought back good memories.

Ben Coates

Ben Coates - August 19, 2020 at 10:25 PM

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Terry was one of my favorite professors and like the other comment, I particularly enjoyed cultural anthropology and considered a career in anthropology. History and the law ultimately worked the best for me but I always thought what if I had made a differ choice inspired by Terry. In the 1970s I did teach a watered down version of a course on anthropology at Topeka West but nothing like Terry's mesmerizing class. Mu future husband picked me up after Terry's class and often rolled his eyes at my enthusiasm for the course. Your obituary captured how I knew him and provided aspects of his life unknown to me but not surprising. My prayers are with you.

Cynthia Heath

Cynthia Heath - August 19, 2020 at 07:04 PM

RC

“ During my undergraduate years at WU, Terry helped me sort out the various career choices I was contemplating. I waffled between social work, criminal justice, and education. While meeting one afternoon in his office, we went over the pros and cons of each profession. Terry asked me who I enjoyed interacting with most at social gatherings. I thought it an odd question at the moment, but I said, “I always end up talking and playing with the kids.” He said, “That is because you have the ability to “speak child” and they intuitively know that about you. It is a gift that not everyone has.” I never forgot that conversation and went on to have a rewarding 30 year career as an elementary teacher and continue to work with children at the Topeka and Shawnee Public Library. I am so sorry to hear of his passing, but please know his life touched not just mine but the hundreds of children I taught.
Rhonda Wisdom Cathey

Rhonda Cathey - August 19, 2020 at 03:36 PM

SA

“ There are so many memories! Terry was there when I got to Washburn in 1975, as a new young history professor. He and Pat became friends from then on. I will miss him, but he will keep right on being here in my heart.

Sara - August 19, 2020 at 03:29 PM

MS

“ Thank you for your Military service to our Nation. Serving your country is truly one of the greatest gifts you can give to your Family, your Community and your Nation. May God bless you, your Family & Friends.

Mike Simmons - August 19, 2020 at 11:58 AM

NO

“ Terry lived a life of purpose and activity, valuing learning and living it fully. I smile thinking of our gathering and celebrations at the Booth table and patio. Terry's presence lives on. Thinking of you Pat, Guy, Amy, and Jake as you grieve the loss.

Nona

Nona - August 19, 2020 at 11:06 AM

SH

“ When I attended Washburn, I always looked for classes taught by Prof. Booth. Cultural Anthropology was a great class that I'll always remember. I can still see him shaking chalk in his hand at the front of the class by the chalkboard. Wonderful stories. A fine educator.

Scott Henson - August 19, 2020 at 10:53 AM

GM

“ One of my most memorable professors at Washburn. You could tell he had a real passion for his profession. I'll never forget the time he made me read one of papers to the entire class. I was so terrified, but I survived it. He enlightened me to appreciate other indigenous cultures and to learn more about my own native roots.

Gina Mendoza - August 19, 2020 at 10:04 AM

MC

“ One of my favorite professors at Washburn! I'm sorry for your loss, but oh the stories he could tell. And his love for anthropology and indigenous peoples stays with me today - 35 years after his class.

Michel' Cole - August 19, 2020 at 09:12 AM

MO

“ Terry's legacy lives on in his children, and his legacy is in excellent hands. My love to the entire family.

Michael OHara - August 17, 2020 at 07:47 PM

KK

“ I, unfortunately, never got to know Terry but I do know his son Guy very well. Any man who raised such a good man must have been an awfully good man. My best to the family.

Karen L Kessler - August 17, 2020 at 05:08 PM

FO

“ Rebecca and I together lived across the street from Terry and Pat for 18 years. Best friends. Countless lovely evenings together - both families including the children. Terry and I just clicked - talking, eating, enjoying the outdoors. Our families are forever linked, and I will continue to miss my wonderful friend and celebrate him as long as I am here. Blessings to Pat, Guy and Amy. Flynn O'Malley

Flynn O'Malley - August 14, 2020 at 02:27 PM

AC

Today is January 17, 2022. MLK's birthday and remembering his courage and tenacity to lead those who were his people. I was a student of Dr. Booth and he opened the door to learning I knew was there but had not seen the mountain. I went to Savannah, Ga., after Dr. Booth's class and saw the many historical values of the Southeastern United States through the eyes of an educator. I also attended the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D. C. Dr. Booth would have said *ata girl; go for your happiness and I did.* I am so very, very sorry to learn of his passing. The educational world has lost a giant and a gentle man whose main consideration in teaching was whether is students were getting it! Arlene F. Clayton

Arlene F. Clayton - January 17, 2022 at 06:02 PM