



East Texas

Historical Association

August 15, 2022

Dear Association Members:

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of Randolph "Mike" Campbell, a Fellow and Life Member of the Association. Mike, at the time of his passing, was our longest serving Fellow, a member of the first "class" of ETHA Fellows. For those who knew Dr. Campbell only through his work as a scholar, he was truly a giant of the discipline, the author of numerous books and scholarly articles, but perhaps most notably his monographs "An Empire for Slavery: The Peculiar Institution in Texas," "Grass Roots Reconstruction in Texas," and his general history of the state "Gone To Texas," which "Texas Monthly" magazine lauded as the "most complete and accurate history of Texas ever written." For those who knew him as a Professor at the University of North Texas, they will always remember the man who at first seemed to be a stern taskmaster, but one they came to regard as warm and open, a teacher they will never forget. Finally, for those of us who knew him as both of the above but also a friend, we will remember the man who never failed to give us his time, his good advice, but most of all his loyal, gracious, and unstinting fellowship.

Mike Campbell was a leader, a scholar, a teacher, a father, husband, and friend. His passing will be mourned by hundreds, even thousands, although Mike would have waved off such accolades with the humility that made him dear to everyone who knew him.

There will be a memorial service for Mike Campbell this coming Saturday, August 20, from 10am to 12pm at the DeBerry Funeral Home in Denton (2025 West University Dr., Denton TX 76201). The memorial is a come-and-go event without a specific program, so everyone is invited to come by whenever they can. Afterward, there will be a reception at Campbell's residence (924 Imperial Dr., Denton TX 76209) for anyone who would like to attend.

The East Texas Historical Association mourns Randolph "Mike" Campbell today and sends our sympathy and thoughts to his family and friends.

Sincerely,

M. Scott Sosebee
Executive Director