

Fred Anderson Tarpley fell asleep in the Lord on March 1, 2014.

He was born in Leonard, Texas, on Jan. 27, 1932, during the height of the Great Depression.

He received B.A. and M.A. degrees (1951 and 1957) from East Texas State University and a PhD. from LSU in 1960.

On Feb 22, 1969, he married Jolene Connatser, and they raised their three children, Ted, Marie and Mark, together in Commerce.

Dr. Tarpley, began his teaching career began in Galveston, Texas, teaching at the local high school at the age of 19. He would go on to teach in the English department at East Texas State University (Professor Emeritus). He was the author of a number of books, including "1001 Texas Place Names". He was the founder of the Bois d' Arc Bash in Commerce, Texas. He received the Distinguished Alumni Award from what is now Texas A&M-Commerce (old ET, as some would say).

He is survived by his children Ted of Sydney, Australia, Marie of Austin and Mark of Fort Worth his sister, Dorothy Miville; and family and cousins.

A Memorial Reception was held Saturday, March 8. at Sam Rayburn Student Center at Texas A&M Commerce.

The family has established The Fred A. Tarpley English Endowment. (contact John McCarty @tamuc.edu.)

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