



Thomas E. "Tom" Blevins

March 8, 1949 - December 23, 2017

Dr. Thomas E. (Tom) Blevins

2 Timothy 4:7 – “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

Dr. Thomas Blevins, 68, passed away on December 23, 2017, at Embrace Hospice House in Myrtle Beach, SC, after a long battle with ALS. He was born on March 8, 1949, in Welch, WV. He lived his entire life in southern West Virginia with the exception of his retirement years. He was a graduate of Northfork High School, Bluefield State College, Marshall University, and Virginia Tech. He had a long and established career in education, having taught at Elkhorn Jr. High from 1971-74 and Northfork High School from 1974-77. While there, he was the chess team coach and the Shakespearean Drama Society sponsor. Dr. Blevins came to Bluefield State College in 1976 and remained there until his retirement in 2012, serving the college in many capacities for 35 years.

During his tenure at Bluefield State College, he was a Professor of English and Education, was the Director of the Instructional Technology Center, which later became the Center for Extended Learning having off-campus sites in Lewisburg, Beckley, and Summersville. He assisted with the development of over 200 online courses. He served as the Dean of the School of Education and Dean of the Virtual College. He served as interim President during 2000 and again from 2011-12. He worked for the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission from 1999-2010, serving as the Chief Technology Officer

for the state of West Virginia. He was a member of many professional organizations, local, state, and national, including serving as an evaluator for North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA) and the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).

Dr. Blevins served on the Bluefield City Board of Directors from 2011-15. He was a member of the Bluefield Rotary International and a Paul Harris Fellow. He was a member of the Bluefield Elks Club and the Murrells Inlet Moose Club. He was a caring and charitable individual who put others before self. He was a loving father and husband who had many interests, including military history and travel. He valued his friendships with his peers, classmates, and former students. He was a member of Belin United Methodist Church in Murrells Inlet, SC.

Survivors include his wife, Dr. Betty R. Rader of Murrells Inlet, SC; his three children, Tracy Perkins (John) of Williamsburg, VA, Jim (Lisa) of Bluefield, WV, and Matthew of Bluefield, WV; six grandchildren, Cora Perkins, Abigail Hash, Jacob Blevins, Ashley Diffenbach, Kassi Diffenbach, and Dawson Diffenbach. He is predeceased by his adoptive parents, Rev. C. C. and Bessie Blevins and his grandson, Travis Blevins.

The family would like to express appreciation to Homewatch CareGivers of Murrells Inlet who assisted in his care in his final weeks.

A memorial service will be held at First United Methodist Church Bluefield, VA Saturday January 6, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. The family will receive friends Friday January 5, 2018 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at Mercer Funeral Home. Interment at Woodlawn Memorial Park Cemetery will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the ALS Association at 7499 Parklane Road, Columbia, SC 29223 and the Bluefield Union Mission at 2203 Bluefield Avenue, Bluefield, WV 24701.

Cemetery Details

Woodlawn Memorial Park Cemetery

Bluefield, WV

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 5. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Mercer Funeral Home & Crematory
1231 West Cumberland Road
Bluefield, WV 24701
(304) 327-6155
mercerc@mercercfuneralhome.com
<https://www.mercercfuneralhome.com/>

Memorial Service

JAN 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
Bluefield, VA 24605

Tribute Wall



“ *Mercer Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas E. "Tom" Blevins*



Mercer Funeral Home - January 05, 2018 at 11:48 AM



“ *Thomas E. "Tom" Blevins*

October 05, 2023 at 06:08 PM



“ *I would like to express my heartfelt sympathy and empathy to Betty, Tom's children, and grandchildren. I first met Tom when I was a student at Bluefield State College in 1978. I got to know him better when I became a member of the BSC Nursing Faculty in 1983. He became a personal friend after my friend Betty came into his life. I have many fond memories about our shared times together.*



*Larry Quesenberry
Gainesville, FL
(lquesel@cox.net)*

Larry Quesenberry - January 17, 2018 at 02:01 PM

JV

“ I am so sorry for your family's loss. My thoughts have been especially with you, Betty, ever since I received word of Tom's passing. I had a friend in Roanoke who was stricken with ALS, and I remember the toll it took on his partner. Tom was always so kind and encouraging to me. One day at work Tom paid me an unexpected compliment that remains among my fondest memories of my experience at BSC.

The passage from 2nd Timothy that was included in Tom's obituary was so apropos. I recall several memorial plaques at Bluefield Community Center, one of which quotes the same Scripture. My attention was drawn to those words every time I walked past the inscription. Without a doubt, Tom ran a very good race.

Sincerely, Jim Voelker (jim_voelker@yahoo.com)

Jim Voelker - January 05, 2018 at 01:22 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Thomas E. "Tom" Blevins.



January 04, 2018 at 09:52 PM

MB

“ I had the pleasure of working with Tom with the statewide distance learning group in WV. He was a visionary who supported the mission we had at hand at a time when technology was new to most of our schools. He also encouraged new members to reach for their goals with student needs and was very unselfish in sharing his own expertise. He was truly a class act and will be missed by the WV higher education community. I hope the family finds some solace in knowing that he touched many lives as an accomplished professor, administrator, and colleague.

Monica Brooks - January 03, 2018 at 02:56 PM

DW

“ Tom taught with my first husband, Terry Mullins, at Northfork High School. Terry and him became friends. He was introduced to me by Terry. We have remained friends throughout the years. He was my Facebook friend. He also taught my daughter, Cassie , when she went to Bluefield State College.

Donna White - January 02, 2018 at 04:51 AM

DR

“ Betty and family- Sorry to hear the sad news. My late wife and I always knew Tom as a kind friend and always a first class person.

Don Rector - December 28, 2017 at 09:18 AM

DS

“ Betty so sorry to hear about Tom. He loved what he did at BSC and helped a lot of people. We will all miss him. God Bless.

don shillingburg - December 27, 2017 at 08:09 AM

KC

Ron loved him and I have lost him too so Very sorry

kathy cowan - December 27, 2017 at 09:52 PM

KC

We both love you Tom

kathy cowan - December 30, 2017 at 06:08 PM

JL

So sorry to hear about Tom. To Betty & Family. We love Tom and Betty. No one couple fault for Bluefield State harder than Tom and Betty. I will miss his support for the Library and the Archives and his friendly smile and words of encouragement. He was a Can Do kind of guy and so is Betty. He loved people and Bluefield State College. Please accept my condolences and prayers.

James Leedy

James Leedy - January 04, 2018 at 02:54 PM

BH

“ *My condolences to the family of Dr. Blevins; I never had a class with him, but we talked on so many occasions, I felt as though I had. He will be missed. Praying God will grant you the ability to carry on and move forward.*

Brian Hartwell - December 26, 2017 at 09:32 PM

JG

“ *Betty and family. Thinking of you at this difficult time, will always remember Tom and how willing he was to always help the Quota girls to set up tables and help in other ways when we had our yard sales, what a gentleman! You will be in my thoughts and prayers. Love Always. Janet Gunn*

Janet Gunn - December 26, 2017 at 02:17 PM

LZ

“ Betty and family, I just heard the sad news of Tom’s passing. I will always remember the great times we shared during our friendship. Please accept my sincere condolences.
Larry Ziegler

Larry Ziegler - December 25, 2017 at 07:02 PM

BH

“ I first met Dr. Blevins as an 8th grader at Elkhorn Jr. High School. He left an impression that has lasted for many years. I pray for his family and friends during this very difficult time.

Becky (Lusk) Hendrick - December 24, 2017 at 10:13 PM



“ Tommy and I grew up together in Maybeury WV, a small town in McDowell County. Although I was two years his senior, he and I kept in contact over the years and would occasionally see each other when he was in the area. He never forgot to ask about my brother who was the same age as he. He would also ask about mutual friends and listened intently and with much care and concern which showed he genuinely cared about what I was saying. He was a wonderful school teacher as attested to by his students. He loved the Lord and was not ashamed to share that part of himself with others. He also loved his family and spoke of them often. He loved his friends and influenced many with his wise words. I suppose I am saying Tommy loved everyone just as the Lord asks us to do!! He will be missed by many. I know he is in his eternal rest now and I am sure, praying for each of us as he always did here on earth. My prayers and condolences go to Betty and children during this time of mourning and separation. Beverly Little Miller

Beverly Miller - December 24, 2017 at 09:36 PM



“ Tom was my boss at BSC. He was a great man and he took out of his day to help groom who ever that would listen. He was definitely a man that influence my life and I would not be the man I am today if I had not met men like him. We had so much fun working with Tom. We May have even done some things that could have gotten us all arrested. Definitely made college life an experience. Thanks for everything my friend.

Terry Witt - December 24, 2017 at 02:50 PM



“ Betty,
My thoughts and prayers are with you. Tom and I had some great conversations on FB and he got me through some tough times. I will always appreciate his guidance. May God give you peace and comfort and know the BSC community is united in prayer for you!
Carolyn Kirby

Carolyn Kirby - December 24, 2017 at 10:19 AM



“ Mr. Blevins was my teacher at Northfork High School in 1975. He was also a mentor for the Shakespear Club and other activities. He was a caring person that always wanted the best for his students. I graduated that year and just in the last few years had been back in touch through facebook. I will miss him. I am sending thoughts and prayers for his family and friends for God's comfort and strength during this difficult time.

Cathy Lawing - December 24, 2017 at 12:35 AM