



Douglas Hatfield

MAY 22, 1939 - FEB 21, 2025



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Douglas Hatfield

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Douglas W. Hatfield (Doug) was born on May 22nd, 1939, in Baton Rouge, LA, and grew up in Houston and Midland Texas. He enjoyed and participated in numerous sports, most notably tennis, which he would continue to play for decades. He and his immediately family loved to sing, and he was a member of both school and church choirs. Doug excelled scholastically, attending Baylor University in Waco, Texas on a presidential scholarship, and he completed his undergraduate degree in three years. He continued to root for his beloved Baylor Bears, as well as the St. Louis Cardinals, for the rest of his life.

After graduation, Doug pursued a Ph.D. in History at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, and he taught briefly at The University of Tennessee Knoxville and at his alma mater, Baylor University, before accepting a tenure-track position at Southwestern at Memphis (now Rhodes College) in Memphis, Tennessee. This was a position he would hold for the next forty-plus years, providing thousands of students insight on the rise and repercussions of Hitler and the Third Reich. The class he created continues at Rhodes as his legacy. While at Rhodes, he also served for several years as Chair of the History department and later as Director of Rhodes' interdisciplinary humanities program.

Not long after moving to Memphis, Doug met his wife and partner in life, Marion Anita Ellis. They were introduced in October 1965, became engaged in April 1966, and married on August 20, 1966. Doug and Marion were married for 42 years, until Marion's death in 2007. Fellow teachers and fellow followers of Christ, they were united in purpose and were both among the founding members of Trinity Baptist Church in Cordova, Tennessee.

A devoted husband, father, grandfather, and teacher, Doug was above all a good and faithful servant to his Lord. He used his gift of teaching in several Sunday School classes over the years, most notably the "Over-70" group at Trinity, who looked forward to his in-depth lessons each



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week, and he was a member of the choir until he was no longer able to read the music well. Doug was also an ordained deacon for many years, serving his God and church in numerous capacities.

In addition to his wife, Marion, Doug was preceded in death by his parents, O.W. and Margaret Hatfield, and his sister, Eloise Hatfield. He is survived by his daughter, Sylvia Nisar (Robert Nesbit), his granddaughter, Khadija Nisar (Ben Riggle), many former students and dear friends. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Trinity Baptist Church in Cordova or to the History Department at Rhodes College in Memphis.

Service for Doug will be held on Saturday March 8, 2025 at 2:00pm at Trinity Baptist Church; 8899 Trinity Rd. Cordova, Tennessee 38018


Arrangements have been entrusted to Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery, 5668 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38119 (901) 767-8930. "Where Memphis comes to remember, since 1924."



Events

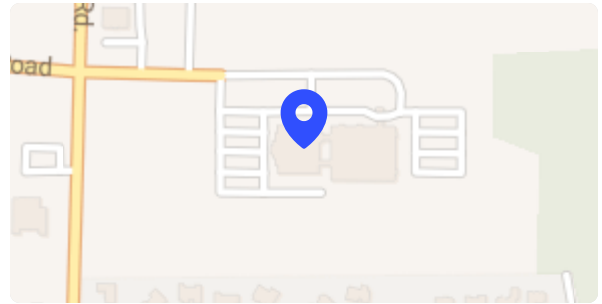
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Memorial Service

 **Saturday**, March 8, 2025

 2:00 PM CT

 **Trinity Baptist Church**
8899 Trinity Rd, Cordova TN 38018-2714





Tribute Wall

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RL

Robert Llewellyn posted:

Shortly after I arrived at Southwestern At Memphis it was said by a member of the Faculty that should a strong wind blow across the campus the Department of History was in good form because of the heavy weights in the department but the Department of Philosophy, my department, would be lost forever because of the light weights in that department! Doug certainly contributed to the fine academic substance of the Department of History. He certainly was no light weight: he was a friend and a colleague from the outset, he was able to enjoy a good laugh and to tell a good joke, his scholarship was meticulous, his teaching was sound, his contribution to the service work of the Faculty, especially on curriculum reform, went well beyond expectations, he shepherded the most diverse and at times contentious group of faculty members on campus—the SEARCH staff—with gentleness, support, quiet admonition, and he created out of them a cohesive teaching force, and defying the weight metaphor he was a ballet dancer on the tennis court. He met all with kindness, respect, and grace; he was always active, and practiced the discipline of continuing education. Rest now in peace ...Robert R. Llewellyn Associate Professor of Philosophy, emeritus Dean of the College, retired

March 4 at 8:29 PM

JF

Joseph Favazza posted:

I am saddened by the news of Doug's passing. As a new faculty member at Rhodes in 1993 teaching in the Search for Values program, Doug became a valued mentor and guide. We worked together well and in 2000 I assumed the Directorship of the program when Doug stepped down. It was an honor to work with Doug though on a few occasions he was ruthless on the tennis court. Rest in peace, friend.
Joe Favazza

February 28 at 10:25 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Douglas by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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