



## Dr. Allen O. Battle

November 19, 1927 - April 23, 2020

Allen Overton Battle, Ph.D., A.B.P.P., A.B.M.P. is now only with us in spirit as of 10 a.m. April 23, 2020. He attended: Immaculate Conception Cathedral School as a boy, Siena College where he graduated cum laude in Chemistry and Philosophy/Psychology; Biology Minor, The Catholic University of America where he got his M.A. in Clinical Psychology; Anthropology Minor, and also earned his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology/ Anthropology; Psychiatry Minor there, and he interned at The University of Tennessee College of Medicine. He was a professor of psychiatry at The University of Tennessee for over 60 years and for much of that tenure he was Chief of the division of Clinical Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry. He also taught at The University of Memphis and Rhodes College. He saw many adults, children, and families as a part of his practice of psychology. He delivered and supervised psychological services for decades to the Juvenile Court of Memphis-Shelby County. He also provided assistance to DeNeuille Heights School for Girls for decades. He lived to try to help people, and to train health care professionals of all types in how to best serve their patients. He led the organization of the graduation ceremony at U.T. for decades because he loved the pageantry of honorably bestowing diplomas recognizing such hard work completed, and the ensuing solemn duties undertaken to future patients. He was a noted researcher, author, and a true humanitarian who was listed in several Who's Who publications.. The honors that he was awarded attest to his frequent success in his endeavors. Among many other honors he was: a member of the Sigma Xi scientific society, invested in knighthood in the Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem (Knights of Malta) for services to humanity, given a National Jefferson Award for outstanding service to America in public health (delivered by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor) for his co-founding of the Memphis Suicide Prevention and Crisis Center as well as for his cutting-edge training of the Memphis Police Crisis Intervention Team. He married Dr. Mary Vroman Battle, Ed.D. in 1953 after they met while at The Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. and they join again in death. They leave a surviving son, Allen III. He relaxed by playing the piano and going to films, concerts, ballet, and opera performances. He was a cultured gentleman who did far more than his duty. The world is a far better place to have had him in it. Memorials, fittingly, ought to be sent to the Memphis Crisis Center <https://memphiscrisiscenter.org> as he had a

slight allergy to flowers... and a love of humanity.

# Comments

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“ I was a psychology intern in 1974 at UT. Dr. Battle was kind, very intelligent and very professional. He supervised interns but also evaluated patients each week with interns present after which he discussed the case. So gifted. I am so grateful.

**Dr Bob Gordon** - June 28 at 04:01 PM

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“ Dr. Battle was a very kind person. It was always a pleasure to see him. Our family offers our condolences.

**Greg Simmons** - June 06 at 02:19 PM

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“ Condolences to Dr Battle's family. Over 30 years ago my daughter was a patient of his.  
He was compassionate and oh so knowledgeable. He was always available no matter the time. While we have so many fond memories and respect for his brilliance I have one memory that will always stand out. With all his publications he was so thrilled when I brought in a mystery book I had just finished reading. It credited Dr Allen Battle for his help and input in understanding the criminal mind and subsequent behavior. I never saw him so excited...his face became so animated as he asked if he could take the book home to show his wife. We had family meetings with our daughter periodically and had great respect for him. After moving my daughter would call him just to say hello and he always took the call. Rest In Peace, kind sir.....you were a gift to so many.

**Dianne Cangemi** - June 02 at 01:25 PM

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“ Allen was a friend and associate for almost 50 years. He was as gracious, kind, and good hearted a colleague as I have ever known. Both the scientific discipline and the community will miss him greatly.

**Eric C Theiner PhD** - May 25 at 10:58 AM

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“ Dr. Battle was a beautiful person and healer. I will miss him.

J. Franklin

**Joseph** - May 21 at 12:15 PM



“ Dr. Battle was such a great teacher, he always had time to consult about a patient and make it a teaching experience. James Moseley

**James Moseley** - May 02 at 09:44 AM



“ So sorry for your loss Allen. We are thinking of you!  
Tom and Linda Vroman

**tom** - May 01 at 10:55 PM



“ Thanks so much to Dr. Battle for always being encouraging and supportive while I was young in my psychology career he was a true champion of the underserved and overlooked; he had a great dry sense of humor and was a true intellect I am better for having known him! He taught me a lot about how to be a compassionate professional. Thanks to Dr. Battle and his family!

**Mace Coday** - May 01 at 12:42 PM



“ Dr Battle was such a treasure to all of us psychiatry residents at the University of Tennessee. A wealth of knowledge, a fountain of empathy, and a gift for teaching. He will be deeply missed. I consider myself lucky to have received his teaching and his kindness.

**Lisa E Goldman MD** - May 03 at 05:18 PM



“ Dr Battle was my lifeline and was always available to work with me if I was in crisis. His teachings were ace and always spot on. Dr Battle I know you are at rest and probably teaching still. All my best to your son. Please know your father was a true gentleman

**Lorraine** - May 10 at 10:36 PM



“ Dr. Battle contributed his strong sense of humor, intellect, and calming psychology techniques, along with other mental health providers, to the Memphis Police Department's Crisis Intervention Team through an exceptional training modality. This phenomenal group of psychological professionals saved an untold number of injuries, and even lives when the police were called to respond to violent or suicidal mentally ill persons. Thank you Dr. Battle.

**Walter Crews** - May 14 at 07:49 PM



“ I worked with Allen for years on the Commencement Committee. Remember, we were on the quarter system and had four services a year. Dr. Battle had the overall part (speaker, minister, etc.) while I had the details (stacked diplomas, hoods, lined up the graduates, etc.). I never had a better person to work with. Jim Stockdale

James Stockdale - April 30 at 12:44 PM

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“ Dr. Battle taught me as an undergraduate and was my colleague at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, although we weren't in the same department and didn't see each other very often. He always remembered me, though, which I found slightly puzzling, as I was not a stellar undergrad student—pretty good, but not great. He may have noticed me more in the mid-1970s when I chaired the Faculty Senate committee that negotiated the tenure guidelines with the administration and held public hearings on the subject. As his obituary says, he loved the rituals of academia, which I did not, and was always in full regalia whenever possible.

Everybody, I suppose, is unique in some way, but Allen Battle was truly one of a kind.

William M. Wilson - April 30 at 12:05 PM

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“ My mother was a patient of Dr. Battle. I will always remember him for his gentle kindness and as a fellow faculty member who always had a smile and a kind word when our paths crossed. UTHSC will seem emptier without him. Marshall Elam

Marshall Elam - April 30 at 10:58 AM

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“ I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Battle while working in psychiatry at UT. He was a very kind man who would always speak to me with a smile. Our conversations were brief but impactful. I looked forward to seeing him every Wednesday. He will truly be missed. My condolences to the family and friends. In loving memory of a wonderful person. We will love you and miss you always.

Tabatha



Tabatha Bortters - April 29 at 11:11 AM

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“ Dr. Battle and I were office neighbors at the Department of Psychiatry for over 40 years. He was one of the kindest people I've ever met. His patients adored him. He had one of those contagious laughs that took over his entire being. Before he got too feeble to travel, he took yearly trips to Austria, the country where I had spent my

adolescence. We shared many hours reminiscing about Vienna, the food, the music, the history, and the culture. I will miss him. Rest in peace, Dr. Battle. You made the world a better place, and it was a privilege to have you as my friend.

Renate Rosenthal, Ph.D.

Renate Rosenthal, Ph.D. - April 28 at 07:01 PM

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Allen Battle - April 27 at 04:25 PM



“ What a cute family. Such a prince of a faculty advisor.

Lisa E Goldman MD - May 03 at 05:23 PM

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Allen Battle - April 27 at 04:24 PM

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Allen Battle - April 27 at 04:23 PM