



Theodore Joseph Dendinger

April 21, 2020

Theodore Joseph "TJ" Dendinger, 85, died on April 21, 2020 from a cerebral hemorrhage. He was the beloved husband of Nelda Parker Dendinger, with whom he shared 63 happy years; father of Theresa (Jim Smith), Elise (Leonard LeBlanc) and Ted; grandfather aka "Atshaw" of Carrie LeBlanc Jones (Aaron) and Ben LeBlanc; and great grandfather of Joseph and Merritt Jones, who brought him great joy. TJ will also be dearly missed by his brother Kenneth (Cynthia) and his extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents Theodore and Vivian Bridges Dendinger, infant brothers Ronald and Rodney, sister Barbara and brother-in-law Bobby Brown. TJ was President of Dendinger Land & Timber Company, owned and operated Dendinger Marine Service, and founded Pelican Outboard Racing Club. A fierce competitor, whether he was running hurdles, racing hydros, showing dogs, or playing croquet, TJ had a burning desire to win. He had a big personality, a great sense of humor, and an impish grin. TJ entertained family and friends with barbecues, seafood boils, jambalaya, and outlandish stories—all of which were true. While inspecting timber tracts and mills with his grandfather "Tiger" and father "Teddy," a teenage TJ learned the family business and acquired their driving habits. He was a local favorite in Region 9 hydroplane boat racing driving A and B hydros and runabouts. His love for tinkering on outboard motors led to his career as a master mechanic, which brought him to Denham Springs. If you were lucky enough to grow up on Sullivan Lane, he probably assembled your swing set, your bike, and may have taught you to ride without training wheels. TJ and Nelda founded Silvertips of Dixie, breeding and showing top winning AKC Samoyeds. They were active in the Baton Rouge Kennel Club for many years. He was an AKC licensed judge. TJ was an excellent dancer. He and Nelda loved to dance the night away at Cave Tangi and the Blue Room. In his later years, TJ enjoyed visiting with his Southeastern High School classmates and Region 9 racing buddies. He organized several reunions, bringing together friends who had been out of contact for 50 years. TJ was a parishioner of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Father Frank Uter will conduct a graveside service at St. Joseph Abbey. We look forward to the day we can gather with family and friends to celebrate his life. Memorial donations may be made to Livingston Parish Students Against Destructive Decisions. (115A Hummell Street, Denham Springs, LA 70726)

Comments



“ Thinking of you out here in California. Thanks for treating my brother, Jim, so well, TJ! Nelda and family, he sounded like a real joy who will be dearly missed.

Katie Cervone(Jim's sister) - April 27 at 11:26 PM



“ Aunt Nelda,
I am so sorry for your loss. You and the rest of the family are in our prayers. May God bring you comfort and peace.

Shari Navarre - April 24 at 03:57 PM



“ Sorry I didn't get to tell you good bye brother. Say hello to Ronald and Rodney for me. Ken

Mrs. Kenneth L. Dendinger - April 24 at 02:17 PM



“ He will b missed. Miss u Nelda. We will pray for ur loss. Thanks for having all the good times.

Robby Bearden - April 24 at 12:38 PM



“ Never forget when I took an old Scott Atwater outboard to TJ for service. He took one look and told me to use it as a trotline weight on the river! Still laughing! Brilliant and nice. We join the family as we pay our respects. Jeff Schneider, Ponchatoula

jeff schneider - April 24 at 10:15 AM



“ Jane & Henry Blanton purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Theodore Joseph Dendinger.





“ Elise, my prayers are with you and your family at this time. May Jesus comfort you.

Jean Miley - April 23 at 09:57 PM



“ I'm in shock to see this sad news! TJ was always so kind to my Husband and I. He handed me my new puppy in front of he and Nelda's Christmas Tree and sad Merry Christmas sugar. My heart was so full of joy and will never forget the get times we shared. My heart hurts and we send our thoughts to Nelda and his family. Will miss you my friend

michele bearden - April 23 at 09:16 PM



“ So sorry Nelda to hear of T.J.'s death. So glad we had a long talk on the on phone last week, catching up on 50 yrs.as school mates.keeping you & your in our prayers. Barbara & Earl

Earl theriot - April 23 at 08:16 PM



“ TJ was one of a kind. He amazed me with all his stories especially racing boats on the river. His energy and smile will be greatly missed. I am thinking of you, Nelda and the rest of the family.

Mary Jean Davies

Mary Jean Davies - April 23 at 07:27 PM



“ My uncle TJ showed me around his new home in Denham Springs after he moved in . His tools that were in his garage amazed me. All his tools were perfectly set in his toolbox. He was so organized. I was so impressed by this I went home wanting my husband Matt to do the same thing because he can never find a tool when he needs it .

I always enjoyed uncle TJ's company. He told great stories that would make me laugh.

He always had a smile on his face and a positive attitude. He loved aunt Nelda and all his family. He was a beautiful person whom I respected tremendously and will remember him forever. I will keep aunt Nelda and his family in my thoughts and prayers. Love you uncle TJ! Rest In Peace!

Liz Bryant - April 23 at 07:00 PM



“ So sorry for the loss of a deer a long time family friend. Many good memories when he would come down to our camp on pass Manchac. He was a stand out. Our prayers are with you.

Gordon Anderson - April 23 at 06:42 PM



“ So many wonderful memories it is difficult to choose one. What must stand out to everyone who knew TJ was his unconditional love for Nelda and their children. And, he did like to have a good time. He was famous in “the neighborhood” for his grilled steaks. T J could lighten the mood during the hard times like the floods. So thankful for his friendship.

Bessie Bond - April 23 at 06:17 PM



“ My wife Peg and I knew Ted and Nelda for years We were neighbors when we lived in Killian. We always considered them good friends. Ted will be missed by all.

Bill and Peg Borstel

Bill Borstel - April 23 at 06:13 PM



“ Dog shows were wonderful with TJ and Neldia..great memories.

Joseph Didier Sr. - April 23 at 06:08 PM



“ The many years I knew TJ enjoyed his funny stories and jokes never telling the same one twice. He would always ask if I had been good. Sail the mighty water ways. Prayers for your families you will be missed.

Daunice Parker - April 23 at 05:33 PM