



Iley G. "Ted" Nance

August 23, 1934 - August 14, 2015

** PLEASE NOTE: The Memorial Service for Ted may be viewed live via webcast. Log onto <http://www.rjfh.tv>, click on Ted's photo which will connect you to the webcast. This should be done approximately one half hour prior to the service and until the time the service begins.

Iley "Ted" Nance, 80, of Traverse City, passed away Friday, August 14, 2015. He was born on August 23, 1934 in Detroit, the son of the late Iley Sr. and Elizabeth "Betty" Nance.

Ted grew up in Dearborn and graduated from Dearborn High School in 1952. He attended the University of Houston and graduated with a bachelor's degree in journalism. Following a year as a general assignment reporter for the Houston Chronicle, Ted returned to the University to serve as Assistant Sports Information Director, a post he held for three years before he became the school's Sports Information Director in 1960.

From 1960 until 1979 Ted promoted and chronicled some of the greatest moments in UH sports history such as 13 NCAA championships in golf, two NCAA Final Four appearances, and Houston's first two Cotton Bowl appearances.

In 1983, Ted became the executive Director of the Bluebonnet Bowl. In 1988, He returned home to his alma mater as the Sports Information Director and good fortune followed him, including one of his greatest joys, assisting the Cougar quarterback win the Heisman Trophy in 1989.

Ted retired in 1994 and ended his 33 year career with University of Houston. During that time he helped to nurture the school and it's athletic image from humble beginnings to national prominence.

In 1983 Ted married the love of his life, Diann. Formerly acquainted as children, they re-met at their 30th high school reunion and were married the following year. They enjoyed 32 years of a blessed and happy life together. Every day Ted's mission was to bring joy and laughter to Diann's life.

Family was the most important part of Ted's life. He took endless pleasure in spending time with his children and grandchildren. Ted and Diann's family include children Morgan (Linda), Tom (Cindy), Neil, Mary (Paul), and John. Beloved grandchildren are Jason, Joshua, Ryan, Haley, Jack, Tess and Natalie.

Ted and Diann loved dining out, listening to jazz and traveling, and took many memorable family trips to various locations around the world.

He was forever a kid at heart with a tremendous zest for life and endless energy. Ted was always ready with good stories, games and practical jokes to the endless delight of his grandkids. To them, there was never any doubt he was the best grandfather in the world.

Ted will be so very missed every day. He was a pure soul that God placed upon this earth to make others happy. He was giving, kind, loving and respected by everyone he met.

Visitation for Ted will begin at 12:30 P.M. (Eastern) (11:30 Central) Wednesday August 19 at The Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home, 305 Sixth St., Traverse City followed by the memorial service at 2:00 PM (Eastern) (1:00 PM Central) For those that cannot attend, the service can be viewed via a live webcast by logging in to <http://www.rjfh.tv> and clicking on Ted's photo at least 15 minutes prior to the service. Following the service, a luncheon will be held at the Top of the Park at the Park Place Hotel.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Ted's name may be directed to The Father Fred Foundation, P. O. Box 2260, Traverse City, MI 49685 or online at <http://www.fatherfredfoundation.com>.

Please visit <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com> to sign Ted's online guest book and to share your favorite memory or photo of Ted with his family.

The family is being cared for by Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Events

AUG **Visitation** 12:30PM - 02:00PM

19

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

AUG **Memorial Service** 02:00PM

19

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

Comments



“ My prayers are with Ted's family. The Cougar community has lost one of its foremost legends. Ted was a consummate professional who made everyone feel special. He was admired by all he came in contact with. I knew Ted in the early years and will remember him as someone who was instrumental in my athletic career. God Bless you in your loss. I feel fortunate to have known Ted Nance

Gary Phillips
U of H 1957-1961

Gary Phillips - August 24, 2015 at 08:43 PM



“ I am so deeply sorry to learn of the passing of Ted. My Grandparents, Doris and Dale Hockstra were neighbors with Ted and Diann. I would visit often, and always enjoyed talking sports and UH with Ted. On more than a few occasions Ted was so generous in setting up my Grandfather and I with press box tickets. Ted also was instrumental in helping me get a perfect score on a project I had in middle school. He was one of the kindest and most caring people I have known. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Brian Roberson
Houston, TX

Brian Roberson - August 24, 2015 at 02:16 PM



“ I am so sorry to learn of the passing of Ted. My father, Charles Miller, and Ted were the best of friends, and are together now, reliving their days together at UH. Ted was so much fun and so many fond memories of all the games we attended, especially beating Texas. Diann and Morgan my deepest condolences to all the family, he will be truly missed.

Charla Miller Minnich

Charla Miller - August 22, 2015 at 11:43 AM



“ Dearest Diann & family,
We are so sad to learn of Ted's passing. He meant so much to so many and was such a wonderful person and dear friend. Looking back, your visit to our home on Lake Conroe last year us even more precious now, knowing it would be the last time to see Ted. His remarkable wit and knowledge of sports and current events always provided such interesting dialogue. And his love of family was unmeasurable. He was the epitome of a true gentleman and a great friend to everyone.
Keeping your family in our prayers.
Love,
Ken & Linda Hayes

Ken & Linda Hayes - August 21, 2015 at 12:30 AM



“ I HAVE KNOWN TED SINCE THE 60'S AND CAN SAY HE WAS ONE OF THE KINDEST AND NICE GUYS I HAVE EVER MET. I MET HIM AT UH AND WAS IMPRESSED BY HIS GENTELNESS. I KNOW HE WAS A TIGER AGAINST a&m AND ut, BUT HE WAS A LOYAL COUGAR, AND MY LIFE WAS BETTER BECAUSE I KNEW HIM.
MAY GOD BLESS HIS FAMILY

RUSSELL RAIA
HOUSTON, TEXAS

RUSSELL RAIA - August 19, 2015 at 06:03 PM



“ I would like to send my condolences to Ted's family. My name is Keith Jenkins and I played football at the University of Houston 1984-1988. Ted was the consummate professional and a great gentlemen. He always had a kind spirit and was often very engaging and showed genuine care about me and my studies. He will be truly missed. Lovely human being, great man and I am sure great father and husband. God Bless him and may he RIP.

Keith Jenkins
UH Cougar 1988

Keith Jenkins - August 19, 2015 at 05:30 PM



“ It was with great sadness that I learned of the passing of my cousin, Ted. I have many wonderful memories of Ted, many of which were memories gathered around my mother's table eating her famous ravioli. One of my favorite memories is the time Ted and Diann had a surprise 80th birthday party for Ted's mother, my Aunt Betty. Ted and Diann graciously opened their home in Texas for us Michiganders (my mother and I) to stay. We laughed for days at Ted's jokes and anecdotes all the while feeling the warmth of his love. His beautiful smile and loving heart will be missed. Diann, I'm so sorry we were unable to be with you today, but we are with you in spirit. You and the family will be in our thoughts and prayers in the coming days. Much love, Jerome and Louise

Louise Trombly - August 19, 2015 at 12:05 PM



“ Ted was responsible for befriending and training so many student assistants for a successful career once they left UH. His warm personality and work ethic showed so many of us how to become better in all phases of life. He was the standard that set the bar. What a fabulous leader and individual. And no one treated people better. If you did not like and admire Ted Nance you had a problem. The man is, and should always be a legend. I miss his smile already.

Frank Schultz - August 19, 2015 at 07:39 AM



“ I agree Frank.....If you didn't like Ted, there was something wrong with you.

Cindy - August 19, 2015 at 09:18 PM



“ Grandpa. You were the most amazing Grandpa., so many memories and good times.. You loved Jason and Joshua unconditionally. You and Diann were always there to encourage us. Always there to give us a time out. Always there... Remember chlorinitis? Burying coins in the sand for the boys to find with the metal detector ! Burying The boys so deep in sand we thought the seagulls would peck their eyes out! Thank you for so many good memories. God Bless you. Love you

sharon perkins - August 18, 2015 at 11:28 PM



“ Ted was always known as Grandpa to me. My brother and I would visit and stay often when Grandma and Grandpa lived in Corpus Christi and Houston. One of my fondest memories and a great testament to his character as both a grandpa and a man was when he bought a metal detector for my brother and I to search the beach for treasure. He went out to the beach previously and had buried pennies and quarters for us to get excited about later when we "discovered" them. It was just a simple example of how loving he was towards us and how he went out of his way to give his grandkids and everyone else fond memories. I'm incredibly lucky that he was able to see me graduate from law school last year. He will be missed. He was a good man. I'll always love grandma and grandpa. Love, Jason

Jason Perkins - August 18, 2015 at 10:52 PM



“ Grandpa was the treasure!

sharon perkine - August 18, 2015 at 11:21 PM



“ My heart felt condolences, to you and Josh. Yes, He was an awesome Grandpa & a wonderful man! He will be dearly missed. I believe his spirit will always be with you. I hope you will always feel that. God Bless you! <3

Linda - August 19, 2015 at 12:06 AM



“ He spoke of you and Josh often Jason. He loved you two very much!

Cindy - August 19, 2015 at 09:22 PM



“ Sharon Perkins lit a candle in memory of Iley G. "Ted" Nance



Sharon Perkins - August 18, 2015 at 10:40 PM



“ Ted was a great guy. He always had a smile and a kind word. I know he will be missed greatly by all that knew him.

James Katz - August 18, 2015 at 09:50 PM



“ 54 files added to the album Family Photos



Reynolds Jonkhoff - August 18, 2015 at 08:28 PM



“ We were blessed to have known Ted, even if it was just a few years. He was a great guy. Always had a nice thing to say about everyone. We met him and Diann through the Grand Traverse Newcomers Club. We shared lots of great times playing euchre, out for our great 'taco nights' and fun dinners at our homes. We will miss him but will always have our wonderful memories. Our thoughts and prayers are with sweet Diann and their beautiful family.

Rich & Nora Socks

Rich & Nora Socks - August 18, 2015 at 07:11 PM



“ To Diann and Famliy,

Both Alice and I are sad to hear of the passing of a great friend. I was very lucky to spend a couple of years working for Ted as a Student Assistant SID during the early 60s along with another student, Sonny Yates. Ted was more than a boss he was a friend and mentor. Things I learned from him have stayed with me all through both my professional and personal life. He was an all time/all world Cougar.

Ted was one of those people who touched many lives with true friendship and love. Ted I look forward to seeing you again. And if I have to type something, no more carbon paper, please!

Charlie Sicola UH '61-'66

Charlie Sicola - August 18, 2015 at 10:28 AM



“ Ted and I were friends while he was at UH. My best memory was when Ted returned to UH in 1988. I happened to stop by to see him and he said that UH had lost contact with many of it's former football players. Ted ask if I could help him and this started, with the help of 10 others I recruited a summers work to locate players. I proud to say that with Ted's help we found and had them in stands for homecoming 600 former players from 1946 on to 1987. Since I was only a graduate and friend of UH Cougar Club, Ted was guiding force to get to this goal. Guess what happened in next two years-we expanded grads of all sports and located 1200 ! Ted, you were a great friend
and the best SID UH ever had. I send my condolences to Ted's family. I will always remember Ted as a kind friend. God bless you and your family,
Richard Brown
UH 1971
A Cougar forever

Richard A Brown - August 18, 2015 at 09:08 AM



“ Dearest Diann, We will always remember your rehearsal dinner in our garden when We met Ted - he was a dear man, and you must remember all the wonderful times you had together and he will always be by your side. Much love to you and your family.
Maureen and Bill.

Maureen&Bill Winemaster - August 18, 2015 at 07:29 AM



“ The passing of Ted Nance is a sad day for the University of Houston. Ted always had a ready smile and a kind word when needed. Remember Ted we woop the Irish 99-98. A real gentleman and a friend was Ted Nance.

Jim Jones - August 18, 2015 at 06:30 AM



“ Ted was my first boss and mentor. He taught me so much and when he retired the first time from UH it took two of us to attempt to replace him. It never happened. He was responsible for training so many of us student assistants and did it with patience and class. There has never been a finer gentleman and professional. The Cougars have lost their number one of all time. He made UH athletes better on and off the field. Love and miss you my Detroit brother.
Thanks for everything. Frank Schultz

frank schultz - August 17, 2015 at 07:28 PM



“ The Godsey, Dooley and Donohoe families send all their love to Ted's family.



Jimmy Godsey - August 17, 2015 at 05:52 PM



“ Condolences to the Nance Family! Ted will be missed certainly by his family, but by 100's if not 1,000's of University of Houston Cougars. I had the pleasure of participating in sports at UH in the early 60's and whenever I needed some 'grown up' guidance, I always went to Ted and was never disappointed with Ted's guidance. Ted was a very positive influence to me.
Horst Paul

Horst Paul - August 17, 2015 at 05:06 PM



“ Ted was a world-class Coog. Long after he retired, he made a point of keeping in touch and always had something positive to say. He will be missed. My condolences to this family.

Steve Hall '81

Steve Hall - August 17, 2015 at 04:17 PM



“ I am deeply saddened and sorry for your family's loss. Mark Jackson

Mark Jackson - August 17, 2015 at 03:26 PM



“ TODAY IS A SAD DAY FOR ALL OF US HOUSTON COUGARS,I HAD THE PLEASURE BEING AROUND TED DURING MY DAYS AT U OF H PLAYING FOR THE GREAT GUY V. LEWIS, I ALWAYS TOLD TED YOU SHOULD BE THE NEXT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR ONCE MR FOUCKE RETIRES, HE WOULD LAUGH. TED WAS LOVED BY EVERYONE, AND ALL THE PLAYERS LOVED HIM, I WILL KEEP HIM, AND HIS BEAUTIFUL FAMILY IN MY PRAYERS, TED WENT TO DEARBORN HIGH, I WENT TO ALLEN PARK, THE CITY NEXT DOOR, WE HAVE ANOTHER GOUGAR LOOKING OUT FOR US IN HEAVEN. JIM PERRY U OF H BASKETBALL 1973-1977

JIM PERRY - August 17, 2015 at 01:37 PM



“ Ted was simply one my very favorite people from 40 years ago. As a college aged guy, it was always a pleasure to go to his office and get his thoughts on Cougar sports and the wider world of college athletics. Just a great, great guy. One of my all time favorites.

Mike Brem

Mike Brem - August 17, 2015 at 01:29 PM



“ It was such a shock and with great sadness to hear of Ted's passing. Our hearts our heavy for the loss of such a special person as Ted and for his beloved Diann and the family. We were truly blessed to have been their neighbors when we all lived on the beach in Corpus Christi. We will always remember the concerts and dinners we shared, Ted's wonderful humor, kindness and the twinkle that was always in his eyes. We know he has a special place with the angels and saints and is now smiling into the face of God. Dear Diann and family know that you are in our hearts and prayers. May the Lord bless and comfort you with His strength and love.
With our love,
Ralph & Barbara Bassett

Barbara Bassett - August 17, 2015 at 01:28 PM



“ Ted was one of a kind, a great person and great Cougar. I remember meeting him as a junior reporter for the Daily Cougar. He always had time for you and always made you feel special. He helped put UH on the map and did so much for not only UH, but for the city. A great person who will be missed but forever remembered. - Gregg Stengel

Gregg Stengel - August 17, 2015 at 12:55 PM



“ I went to work for Ted at the Bluebonnet Bowl after two intense years in the sports information office at UH. My first day on the job, at a little after 5pm, he walked into my office and asked "what are you still doing here?" Although we worked some long hours at the Bowl, he let me know it was okay to have some balance in my life. I am forever grateful and I hold Ted in the highest esteem. Diann, I am so, so sorry for your loss.--Teresa Rennoe Irish

Teresa Irish - August 17, 2015 at 12:49 PM



“ ITeresa and I are saddened by Ted's passing. My fondest memories of Ted are too numerous to mention, but all of them are treasured. He could make me laugh and laughter was a great "medicine". Diann, your entire family are in our thoughts and prayers. Bill Irish

Bill Irish - August 17, 2015 at 07:41 PM



“ This is Elvin Hayes my most memorable memories of Ted was that when I first came to the University of Houston he told me that he was going to make me an All-American and not only did he give me the confidence and the belief to do just that Ted was one of the greatest PR guys which I have ever known and he gave me the confidence to go on and probably become one of the 50 greatest players to ever play the game and also a Hall of Fame basketball player and it's all due to that meeting with Ted. Just know my friend you're one of the finest people that ever came into my life and I think God for you.

Elvin Hayes - August 17, 2015 at 12:44 PM



“ Elvin, my dad always believed in you. I remember running around in the old stadium, seeing the wooden lockers and all 6 or so thousand seats thinking that was big time. Looking up at you guys in the locker room. It was really something. Another story I tell was my dad sent me to the basket ball camp in calleen Tx that you taught, I thought that was the neatest thing. I will always remember you catching flies, rattling the around in your hand then throwing them down on the ground. Guess what, I had to end up doing it myself and of coarse telling the story of the Big "E". I also remember being the ball boy for the game of the Century, Whow, big times, big vive, big excitement. A memory of a lifetime. He always believed in you the Big "E". He loved you as a person. Morgan

Morgan, Ted's son - August 19, 2015 at 06:36 PM



“ Dear Diann and family,

The loving words written of Ted are so, so true. Ted was a was one of the kindest gentlemen we had the pleasure to know. We have such warm and wonderful memories of Ted and you Diann. We are deeply saddened with this news, and you and your family are in our prayers.

With love,
Rick and Melinda Poulter

Melinda Poulter - August 17, 2015 at 12:19 PM



“ Diann and family,

It was with great sadness that I received the news of Ted's passing. You and Ted have always been our true friends. Pat and I spent a number of evenings with you both, sharing a bottle of wine and discussing the many things happening on the beach. These memories will remain as long as we are here. My prayers for Ted and you will continue. I have contacted the people that Morgan gave to me. May God bless you and yours.

With love,
Howard

Howard Fleck - August 17, 2015 at 10:30 AM



“ Powell Hines has asked me to send a note to you since he no longer has internet service.

Diann and family, Howard has informed me of the passing of Ted. Howard and I know the sad feelings since we have lost our loved ones. May God be with you and yours. Our prayers are with you.

Love,
Powell



Powell Hines - August 17, 2015 at 10:20 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Christmas Family Cruise 2014



Linda Otri - August 16, 2015 at 07:48 PM



“ Thanks Ted & Diann for all the wonderful memories! Love you! <3

Linda - August 16, 2015 at 07:53 PM



“ Our hearts are broken. We had such fun and good conversations with Ted and Diann over the years. Ted will be missed by everyone.

Linda and Arnie Taddia

Linda Taddia - August 17, 2015 at 10:18 AM



“ Cindy Bradley lit a candle in memory of Iley G. "Ted" Nance



Cindy Bradley - August 16, 2015 at 07:01 PM



“ Linda Otri is following this tribute.

Linda Otri - August 16, 2015 at 06:55 PM



“ Linda Otri lit a candle in memory of Iley G. "Ted" Nance



Linda Otri - August 16, 2015 at 06:52 PM



“ God Bless You Ted.

May your spirit find peace, warmth and love in heaven. May your after life be filled with joy and wonderment as it was here on this earth. May your soul be at peace and filled with God's Love.

I will forever remember your beautiful boyish smile and every time I eat ice cream, I will think of you. I bet the angels will love you as much as we do! You will forever be in our hearts and will be dearly missed. May God Bless you and keep you in his glory.

Diann & Morgan, May God help you find solace and comfort among loved ones during this time. My thoughts and prayers are with you and the rest of the family. God Bless ~

Farewell Dear one ... until we meet again. Love You!

Linda Otri - August 16, 2015 at 06:51 PM