



## Darrell R. Strait

January 1, 1942 - February 23, 2010

Dr. Darrell Rex Strait, 68, of Bolivar, died Tuesday, Feb. 23, at his home surrounded by family following a lengthy battle with Lewy Body Disease. He is the son of Rex Edward Strait and Eleanor (Beatty) Strait. Born Jan. 1, 1942 in Fairfield, Iowa, Darrell graduated from Van Buren County High School in 1960 and Iowa Wesleyan College in 1964 where he was president of Phi Delta Theta fraternity. He taught chemistry for five years at Ritenour High School in St. Louis. After receiving his Masters degree and PhD in chemistry from the University of Missouri-Rolla in 1974, he taught at Graceland College in Lamoni, Iowa. In 1967, Darrell married Susan Kennett. They have three children and two grandchildren: Jamie and his wife, Kristi, of Clinton, Mo.; Jeff and his wife, Laura, and their two sons, Mitchell and Darrell Riley, of Olathe, Ks.; and Jennifer, of Oak Park, Illinois. Darrell was a long-time member of First Baptist Church where he served as deacon, Sunday School teacher and a member of numerous committees. He was an active member of the Bolivar Optimist Club since 1987, serving as club president from 1993-94. A life member of Optimists, he had perfect attendance for 15 years and was a two-time Optimist of the Year. Darrell taught at Southwest Baptist University from 1981 until his retirement in 2003. He served as Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics for 12 years. He received the Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1995. That same year he received the Parkway Distinguished Teaching Award. Darrell also was a two-time recipient of SBU's Faculty Life Beautiful Award. Upon his retirement, SBU and its science faculty

created the Darrell R. Strait Center for the Integration of Science and Christian Faith. The center continues to serve students today. A devoted and loving son, husband and father, Darrell dedicated his life to serving God. He embodied that in whatever he did, whether it was in reaching out to his students, helping his community or being a role model and constant support for his family. Darrell is preceded in death by his father, Rex. He is survived by wife, Susan, their children and his mother, Eleanor, brother Marvin and his wife, Doris of Keosauqua, Iowa; sister Lynnette Dunn, of Glenwood, Iowa, brothers-in-law Earl Kennett and wife Mary of Dacula, Georgia; Murry and wife Janet of Millersburg, Mo. and Karl of Jefferson City, as well as one niece and eight nephews. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Southwest Baptist University in care of the Darrell R. Strait Center for the Integration of Science and Christian Faith or the Darrell R. Strait Scholarship. Donations can also be sent to the Alzheimer's Association, 1500 S. Glenstone, Springfield, MO 65804. Funeral services will be at 10:00 AM Friday, February 26, 2010 at Bolivar First Baptist Church with Rev. Billy Russell and Dr. William Hooper officiating. Interment will be in Millersburg Community Cemetery near Fulton under the direction of Murray Funeral Home, Bolivar. Visitation will be Thursday from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the funeral home.

PDF Printable Version

# Tribute Wall



“ *Darrell R. Strait*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *Darrell R. Strait*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *Dear Darrell: Let me begin by saying it was a true blessing to be a part of your life. I have so many wonderful memories of you and your family. You hold a special place in my heart and I love and miss you dearly. May you rest in peace.*

**Rebecca Calif** - March 22, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear this.*

**Kathy Gallivan** - March 06, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Susan, we were so sorry to hear about Darrell but perhaps God thought he and his family had gone through enough suffering. We will always remember you and Darrell and the family, especially at the Lamoni church. You were both so helpful to us. Your family has been an outstanding example of God's witnesses. May the Holy Spirit give you the comfort you need now. We shall meet again. In Christian love, Dick and Peggy Gifford*

**Rev. Richard M. Gifford** - March 05, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AP

“ My deepest sympathies go to Dr. Strait's family. I was a student of Dr. Strait the first two years he was at SBU. He was a wonderful teacher, and an inspirational person. I have often thought of him throughout my professional career when a question would arise in our chemistry labs. I thank you for sharing him with his students. He inspired many lives with his own. Angela Miller Phillips

---

**Angela Miller Phillips** - February 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SJ

“ Susan: So sorry to hear of Darrell's passing, but I know it has been so very difficult. You have been amazing through all of this and have certainly been in my thoughts. He was such a brilliant, yet compassionate instructor, recognized by his devotion to his family and Christian standards. Please know of our family's concern and sympathies. Sorry we were unable to attend the memorial service.

---

**Sandy and Bill Jones** - February 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ Darrell was a truly Christian man in every sense of the word. He was a wonderful person to work for. I am sorry I missed the funeral services. My heart is with you, Susan, Jamie, Jennifer, Jeff, and your families. With love to you all, Phoebe

---

**Phoebe Hott** - February 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BO

“ Our greatest blessings go out to your family. We were all very saddened by this news. I hope that there is some light in the fact that Darrell is with the Lord at this point. If there is anything that we can do for the family, we are here, and always will be. We'll keep you in our prayers.

---

**Brad Collins State Farm Office** - February 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ He will always be remembered as you share the stories and the memories of how he lived his life and how very much he meant, may you find comfort...And, throughout this difficult time, may you also know the deep sympathy and concern that is felt for you and all your family. I have fought the fine fight, I have run the course to the finish, I have observed the faith.-2Timothy 4:7. As for me, I will lie down that I may sleep; I shall certainly awake, for Jehovah himself keeps supporting me. -Psalms 3:5

---

**Magallon Family** - February 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. I will keep you and your family in my thoughts and prayers.

---

**Laura Austin-Morts** - February 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ It is hard to accept that Darrell is not present in this world with us, but it is comforting to know that he is with his Lord and Savior in a place well beyond pain and confusion. Our sincere condolences to Susan, Jeff, Jamie and Jennifer and all other family members. Know his love will always be with you all. Ted & Ann

---

**Ted & Ann Wolfe** - February 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

EN

“ Dr. Stait will always be remembered by us as a wonderful, kind professor with a great sense of humor. It was a joy to sit in his classroom. Please accept our deepest sympathy on his passing. David and Katrina (Boyd) Engelman

---

**EngelmanFamily** - February 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

ET

“ Dr. Strait left such an impression on me as a young SBU student. I specifically remember sitting in his Chem II class one day when suddenly a big tall upperclassman ran into the classroom and gave him a huge hug in the middle of his lecture and then ran right out of the room again (this was in 1994). Without missing a beat, but with a little bit of a sheepish grin, he said "That was my son." I looked up to him for the way he and Jeff interacted...and I appreciated the way he treated me as his student. His example has impacted me forever. My prayers and love to his family. I am blessed to have him as part of my life's journey.

---

**Erin (Jackson) Tucker** - February 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TD

“ I was a student at SBU during Dr. Strait's tenure. He had a special way of reaching out to his students, making sure you learned more than just chemistry. He will be fondly remembered by all. My sincere condolences to his family.

---

**Terri Driesel** - February 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM