



Jesse Neilson Bennett II

September 20, 1942 - July 16, 2014

Jesse Neilson Bennett II, Navy veteran, high school basketball star and dedicated family man, died July 15, 2014. He was 71. Jesse was born Sept. 20, 1942 in New Orleans to Joan Adell and Jesse Neilson Bennett. He had three younger siblings, Thelma, Roy and Patricia Bennett along with two older half siblings, Joan and Louis Ray. After his mother's death when he was 11, the four younger children moved into the Methodist Children's Home in Ruston, Louisiana. In high school, Jesse became a great basketball player. He played in the state championship game in 1962 and his picture still hangs on the wall at Ruston High School. Following a brief semester at Louisiana Tech, Jesse joined the Navy and went off to fight in the Vietnam War. He served two years as a seaman on the U.S.S. Washburn, an attack cargo ship. Later, he transferred to the U.S.S. Sumner County as a storekeeper for another two years. In 1964 Jesse met Violet Elaine Strack through a mutual friend on the ship. What started as letter writing between friends turned into love, and on Dec. 4, 1965, Jesse and Elaine were married at the Navy Family Chapel in Long Beach, California. Jesse spent 27 years working for the Navy as a civilian employee; there he held several positions ranging from a plumber and pipefitter to a planner and estimator. Jesse and Elaine had two children, Elizabeth Viola Adele Bennett and Jesse Neilson Bennett III. He and his wife bought a house in San Marcos in 1978 and there they raised their children. When Jesse wasn't working, he enjoyed watching the San Diego Charger's play football on TV, tending to his plants, cooking breakfast for his family, and

nurturing the family pets. On July 15, Jesse had just finished taking his beloved Pomeranian, Buddy, for a second walk of the day and was pulling weeds in his garden with his wife Elaine when he had a massive stroke that left him unresponsive. There was nothing that could be done, and the following morning he was declared brain dead. Jesse's liver and kidney's were donated. Jesse is preceded in death by his son, and was laid to rest beside him on July 22 in the San Marcos Cemetery in a private family ceremony. He is survived by his wife Elaine, daughter Elizabeth Evans, granddaughter Julie, brother Roy Bennett and sisters Patricia Bennett and Thelma Nowacki. The memorial service to honor Jesse's life and his dedication to his country will be held at Emmanuel Faith Community Church in Escondido on Saturday, Sept. 20, 2014 at 1 p.m.

Tribute Wall



“*Was a joy to be around. He loved to use his camera taking pictures was one of his Joy. Sorry to have known you for only a short time as a brother in law I know you and your sister Joan my dear wife are having a good time together.*”

Jesse E Cranford Jr - December 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AK

“Uncle Jesse. I will miss you. The great times I had with you as a child will always be with me and in my heart. I wish my children had the chance to get to know you and spend time with you, your children and now grandchildren. I will miss our visits no matter how few. Going to the Avocado and orange orchards. Eating breakfast you made .. mine being your banana pancakes which my children like and know I got that recipe from you! Having great and funny conversations with you and Aunt Elaine were priceless. I know how important "Family" was to you. Our family speaks fondly of you and laughs at the pranks we use to attempt to do to you when you lived with us. The many nights we played hide and seek in our huge backyard where we would hide in the fig trees waiting for you to find and chase us. The pranks we would be when you were trying to sleep- we would be teasing you by sliding a piece of straw across your face and then running like Hell before you woke up and caught us. Joining the Navy and telling us about this great gal you met..(Aunt Elaine) and of course marrying this California dream girl. Having two beautiful children Elizabeth and Jesse, losing your son Jesse on this earth but now being in the right place to spend that time you deserved with him. Having some quality time with Julie and her mom Elizabeth and now watching down on both Julie and your new family addition Eric. You will not be forgotten and my children know you through visits and our stories about the great times we shared with you. I love you Uncle and I love you Auntie Elaine and will be at the memorial next month. Love and hugs, April M Kirsch (Niece)”

April Kirsch - August 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“for Uncle Jesse:
"His heart once saddened, Now full of delight;
Standing with his Savior, O what a sight;
There all his loved come to be, Home and living for all eternity."
May the many good memories of Uncle strengthen and comfort you
today."

Larry and Deborah Jordan - August 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AG

“Whenever I stayed the night with my best friend Liz, her Dad Jesse would wake us up with the great smells of his breakfasts that usually included grits. He also introduced me to a great restaurant inside Disneyland that reminded him of his hometown New Orleans. You are going to be missed!! I feel blessed that you were/are part of my life!! Rest in peace dear friend!!!”

Amber Goode - August 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DO

“knowing Jesse, and working with him, was a joy. He had his ways, but we all worked together, and thinking back I enjoyed those moments. Were all going to miss him. Dan Ortega”

Dan Ortega - August 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PW

“We will miss you Jesse. I still see your wonderful smile and warm heart. Jesse had such a great way of making you feel good and live life and have some good times with family and friends. He was a warm caring family man and good, father, grandfather to his family. Jesse here is too you. Your in our hearts always. You will not be forgotten. May you and Jesse Jr. rest in peace, your in the hands of the lord for eternity.”

Patricia Walker - August 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BC

“We are sorry for your loss but the angels are greeting with such joy for his new journey has begun....may the Lord wrap his loving arms around you and keep youhe will be greatly missed.”

Ben and Juliane casey - August 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GE

“Jesse was a big-hearted, salt-of-the earth Southern gentleman who loved his family with easy-going warmth and good humor. A rare gem of a man.”

Greg Evans - August 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“What a great and loving man, my deepest sympathy”

Lisa Jackson - August 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“I wish we could have known him. He sounds like a person who lived life to the fullest..... again, so sorry for your loss. Carol Johnson Howard Colorado”

Carol Johnson - August 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

WL

“Our love and thoughts go out to your family. He was one of the best friends a person could have. Anchors Aweigh Jesse.”

Walt and Carol Loetell - August 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PH

“*You live on Jesse, just not with us. You were a very special person. I am sad with much loss tonight in my heart, but my love goes out to Elaine, Elizabeth, and the family. May your memories comfort you during this time. With much love, Patti*”

Patti Holden - August 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM