



William Henry Stone

July 23, 1959 - January 8, 2019

William Henry Stone, “Henry” to most, “Hank” to a few, and “Dad” to one, the light of our lives, left this world on the morning of Tuesday, January 8, 2019, after a short but aggressive case of pancreatic cancer. His wife and his brother Byron were at his side. Henry loved Austin and never wanted to live anywhere else. This beautiful, brilliant soul was born in Austin, Texas, on July, 23, 1959, to Charles and Aletha McCasland Stone. He attended grade school in the Austin and Eanes Independent School Districts. After graduating from Austin High School, he attended the University of Texas at Austin and Austin Community College. Henry was a cabinet-maker, mill-worker, welder, blacksmith, and, finally, welding professor at Austin Community College, his dream job.

Henry was a creator of just about anything: furniture, light fixtures, garage apartments, gardens, artistic BBQ pits, pom-poms for woolen hats, Wom-Kim’s Peach Pudding, chicken coops, marching band equipment, online Math quizzes, gantries, tables from giant saw blades, you name it. He fearlessly and tirelessly designed and engineered the most exquisite version of the creation. It was always exactly what was needed.

Henry was generous with his time and expertise. He provided consultation on vehicle issues, personal relationships, plumbing problems, electrical questions, landscaping, resumés, home improvement, new construction, math problems, vocabulary, and, really, any topic. He knew so much about so many things and graciously shared his time to help friends, colleagues, students, and band members.

Henry was compassionate and kind. When he spoke with any person, he made them feel special and exuded real love for his fellow human with his beautiful smile and eye contact. He made real connections with each person he met, so they always remembered the name of that gentle, friendly, 6’4” tall drink of water.

Henry was an adventurer. He was an avid bicyclist who especially loved the challenging Walnut Creek bike trails and full moon rides around New Sweden Lutheran Church. He loved exploring the back roads and hiking trails of Big Bend National Park. Once, he went on a week-long cruise, he favored hanging out on the lowest deck to watch the fish jumping out of the water. He was also part of an award-winning sky-diving team.

Even as he suffered during his illness, Henry was gracious and welcoming to hospital personnel and visitors. His loved ones had to urge him to be truthful about his excruciating pain levels, since he was not accustomed to complaining. During his hospital stay, he was surrounded by loved ones who helped the hospital staff attend to his very basic needs as his body gave way to the illness.

He is greatly missed by all who knew him and, thus, loved him. Henry was preceded in death by his father Charles, mother Aletha, and step-father Walter Snowden. He is survived by his wife, Laura Morrow Stone of Austin; his son, Angus Morrow Stone of Austin; brothers: Byron Stone of Austin, Donald Stone of Middleton, Wisconsin, and Matt Stone (Michelle) of Kyle, Texas, Jeff (Sherry) Snowden of Austin; sisters: Robin Snowden of Austin and Melissa Smith (David) of Kingwood, Jennifer Jordan (Jeff) of Austin; nephews: David Stone, Tom Stone, Jackson Smith, Michael Snowden, Tyler Snowden, and William Snowden; nieces: Zoey Smith, Julie Jordan, and Jenna Jordan; and numerous cousins and friends.

A celebration of Henry's life is planned for Sunday, February 24, 2019, at 3:00 PM at the McCallum Arts Center (MAC), 5600 Sunshine Drive, Austin, TX 78756.

In lieu of flowers, consider a donation to <https://www.pancan.org/>.

Cemetery

Cook-Walden Forest Oaks Memorial Park

6300 W. William Cannon

Austin, TX, 78749

Comments



“ Barb Davidson lit a candle in memory of William Henry Stone



Barb Davidson - March 29, 2019 at 03:56 PM



“ Dearest Laura, Angus and all families,

I never heard from Donald or Tom about your darling Henry's life being cut short by this lousy cancer. Please forgive this late post!!

I just want to let you know how much he meant to me, from that first "meet the family" Christmas visit to Austin and San Antonio in '85, to your coming up to celebrate Tom's 6 mo. birthday in 1996 (and introduce Laura!) by Henry baking a skillet, pineapple upside down cake!

Then, your surprise/Pumpkin carving wedding---so much love exuding from you both!

I'd heard so many stories from both(as brothers being so close in age~) and of their growing up and know Donald and Henry loved passing along the "boys trips" of those coast fishing trips to their sons.

The obit was beautifully written and brought back many fun memories of Austin visits. I am comforted that you all are surrounded by so much family and friends. That hole in all our hearts is still so vast, but filled with memories of Henry's extraordinary spirit.

With much love to all,
Barb Davidson
"Tom's Mom"

Barb Davidson - March 29, 2019 at 03:55 PM



“ Thoughts about Henry

I first met Henry in the fall of 2014 when we would tow the instruments to the football games together. He was a striking figure, tall strapping dude kinda looked like superman to me. At the time I thought he was a really nice guy, comfortable in his own skin, helpful, dedicated to the band, patient and a good listener.

In the three years I spent with Henry at band events he taught me some important life lessons. At first, I didn't understand why Henry was so enamored with the band. I was just glad my son had a productive way to spend his time and stay out of trouble and I appreciated the challenge of the music they were playing, but I was a distracted person worried about my own career and I did not stop and fully appreciate what happening in the McCallum band. Henry could. As I learned from him, he wanted everyone else to understand his love for the band.

Henry didn't just love that his son was in the band program, he loved the program holistically. He showed me as much in November of 2016, one of the last times I had the pleasure of towing the instruments with him. We were in the parking lot putting together the stands for the drum majors and he heard the drum battery warming up. He insisted on taking a break and just watching the warmup. The thing is that his son wasn't even part of it, mine was. I would have rather just finished setting up all the props, but that's when I really started to understand Henry. He thought there was something miraculous about the McCallum band program. I asked him, what he liked the most about the band program and (hoping he'd say the percussion section), he said, "all of it", "the whole thing, all the pageantry everything". Then he opened up to me, that he'd never seen anything like this before. Never had these kinds of opportunities when he was growing up in Austin. His point was you didn't have to go to Europe, or go to the mountains to witness great beauty. It was all just a quick drive down the street and all for free.

This idea of a bunch of teenagers producing something that great was something I still did not understand. Even after traveling to New York to watch the Carnegie Hall performance. Then on April 27th 2017 we had to rush our son from a baseball game to the PAC for a recording of the Wind Ensemble. I arrived a few minutes late but saw about 20 people in the audience and Henry was one of them. I don't quite know how to describe this performance... exquisite, miraculous, beyond what I thought was possible. Henry knew it would be that way, it took me 3 years to see something Henry saw easily from the get go.

I think the selfless dedication we saw from Henry was something that he thought was a bargain. I know he felt the band had given him 10 times what he had given the band. Those times where all we had to do is stop and listen will live on forever.

Sincerely and with a heavy heart,

Matt Fassiotto



“ Your friends from Dynamic Manufacturing Solutions purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William Henry Stone.



Your friends from Dynamic Manufacturing Solutions - February 08, 2019 at 12:12 PM



“ Henry was indeed one of the kindest, gentlest, people that we had the pleasure of knowing. I first met Henry skydiving at Birds' Nest Airport near Manor. David had known him for some time before that. The spring that David died (2017) Henry called me and said he needed to bring me something (that day was my birthday). I was going to see him that evening anyway and offered to just transfer whatever it was from his vehicle to mine but he wouldn't have that and brought it out to the house. He had done some sitting with David while I needed to be out and David had asked him to build me a love seat to go with the other Adirondack chairs that Henry had built and we had on our porch. It was to be my birthday present. So, I received a handmade love seat (it's gorgeous and I've always loved having things around me that were made by my dearest friends) as a birthday present from the grave (from David). I still cry today to think that we've lost both of these wonderful people so early in their lives. Laura and Angus my heart goes out to you both as you go through this major transition in your lives. There will never be another like either of them.

Becky Howell (& David Mandot)

Becky Howell - January 13, 2019 at 06:24 PM



“ Henry was a skydiving friend back in the day, we literally made hundreds of jumps together. He was the kindest soul, even though I have not seen him in years I will miss him.

Mark weiler - January 12, 2019 at 06:39 PM



“ Susan & Bob McLaughlin lit a candle in memory of William Henry Stone



Susan & Bob McLaughlin - January 12, 2019 at 10:47 AM



“ My sympathy to the family. He always visited with me when I was in Austin. From Minnesota- Ronda Rowe's mother - Janis Skov

janis skov - January 10, 2019 at 08:13 PM



“ Garden of Sweet Memories Casket Spray was purchased for the family of William Henry Stone.



January 09, 2019 at 01:17 PM