



Noel Oscar Owers

October 1, 1926 - November 26, 2024

Noel Oscar Norman Owers transitioned into Eternity with God's mighty Angels on Tuesday, November 26, 2024, in Rockdale, Texas. He was 98. Born under the British Empire in Nagpur, India, to Olivia Margarite Owers and Harold Oscar Norman Owers, he was the youngest of three children. Sisters Charlotte Feegrade and Rita Bullard preceded Noel in death. Noel leaves behind his wife of 64 years, Elizabeth Mary "Betty" Owers, his children: Charles Owers of Commerce City, CO; Beverly Cummings of Rockdale; Patrick Owers of Bulverde, TX, and Bridget Market of Tucson, AZ. He is survived by five grandchildren: Daniel and William Cummings; Christian, Annabelle and Samantha Owers; and many relatives in Canada, Australia, England, South Africa and India.

Noel grew up in central India and received his Ph.D. from the Nagpur University of Science (now The Institute of Science) in Nagpur. After graduating, he researched and taught biology until he was recruited by the Bishop of Pennsylvania, on behalf of Duquesne University, to teach in the United States. The curriculum included physics, zoology, biology, biochemistry and chemistry designed for the flood of veterans enrolled using the G.I. Bill. He accepted the position temporarily, intending to return to India. After repeated promotions and requests to stay on, one thing led to another, and he never went back. Instead, he accepted a Post Doctorate Fellowship at Duquesne University. He sent the earnings to relocate family to England and Canada as a result of India's independence from Britain. Betty and her family

landed in England, where Noel married her in 1960. But the newlyweds could not be together in the US for a few more years until Betty was granted a Green Card. By the time she arrived to begin their new life together, Noel was teaching at the University of Wisconsin, in Madison. There, he taught and conducted research. In 1963 he accepted a position at the College of Medicine, University of Iowa. Noel moved his family to Coralville, Iowa, where they lived until 1969.

The family relocated to Richmond, Virginia, for Noel's position in the Department of Anatomy at the Medical College of Virginia. They arrived in Richmond on the day of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing.

He loved spending time with his pre-med and nursing students and was overjoyed to reunite with doctors who'd been his students. He retired from MCV in 1997 as Emeritus Professor of Anatomy.

His astounding musical career began as a self-taught boy. As a teenager he joined the "Rhythm Boys" in the early 1950s. Eventually, Betty would sing while Noel played the piano and for the next 63 years they performed at every opportunity from one side of the ocean to the other as long as there was a piano in the room. After retirement, he played the organ for the choir at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in south Richmond; and joined the Knights of Columbus. They were parishioners at Sacred Heart for 50 years. For fun, he and Betty performed in retirement homes and at events, mostly playing and singing songs of the '40s and '50s such as Nat King Cole's "Stardust" and "Smoke gets in Your Eyes" by the Platters. He loved Glenn Miller and his Orchestra and played "In the Mood" at every party. As an American patriot he played any patriotic song at the drop of a hat.

Noel was a man of high principles and few words, a voracious reader, an excellent writer and orator. He loved marzipan and cream puffs and a good cup of Indian black tea. He was a true gentleman from the top of his head to the tips of his toes. His impeccable manners and dress never changed, and he never failed to show compassion to all who he met.

As a faithful servant to Christ and life-long Catholic, Noel's devotion to God

was reflected by his immense gentleness, patience, kindness and generosity. He was slow to anger at all times and forgave everyone. His conviction to live by the teachings of King Jesus Christ secures him a place in the Kingdom of Heaven, most likely sitting at an organ or piano.

Interment will be in the Archdiocese of San Antonio - Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery, San Antonio, Texas, on December 10, 2024

Cemetery Details

Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery

17501 Nacogdoches Rd
San Antonio, TX 78266

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 7. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - Rockdale
1041 West Highway 79
Rockdale, TX 76567
(512) 446-5454
phillips_luckey@yahoo.com
<https://www.phillipsandluckey.com/>

Funeral Service

DEC 7. 2:00 PM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - Rockdale
1041 West Highway 79
Rockdale, TX 76567
(512) 446-5454
phillips_luckey@yahoo.com
<https://www.phillipsandluckey.com/>

Graveside Service

DEC 10. 1:00 PM (CT)

Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery
17501 Nacogdoches Rd
San Antonio, TX 78266

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Funeral Service



Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - December 07, 2024 at 06:16 PM

SG

Rest in eternal peace Uncle Noel. You will be sadly missed by all 🕊️

Stephanie Greenwood - December 08, 2024 at 12:45 PM

JA

“ *Uncle Noel I hope you are making music with the Angels! So many memories you have made for us all joining in singing along whilst you happily play beautiful songs on the keyboard! God keep you safe. Love from your niece Jacqui, your nephews Anthony Allen and Jason Allen and our mother Sheila Allen. ❤️❤️*

Jacqueline Allen - December 06, 2024 at 08:21 AM

EW

“ *My husband, Alan Ontiveros, and I were delighted to know Noel and Betty through our affiliation with the Knights of Columbus in Richmond, VA. Besides being a true gentleman and lady, they allowed me to accompany them to sing harmony at a few of their gigs at retirement homes in the region. Never met 'venerables' with as much energy as they. We hadn't known too much of their illustrious history until this obituary, just a bit about their origins in India. Thanks for letting us share in your celebration of this marvelous man.*

Evangeline A Weck - December 05, 2024 at 05:25 PM

SA

“ *susan Allen lit a candle in memory of Noel Owers*



susan Allen - December 05, 2024 at 01:41 PM

SG

“ *Stephanie Greenwood sent a virtual gift in memory of Noel Owers*



Stephanie Greenwood - December 05, 2024 at 08:01 AM

OI

“ *Mr.Owen will always be in my heart he's been like a grandfather to me ever since I moved up here from Louisiana. He helped me with music and always was there when I needed him. I will miss you Mr.Owen*

Otis Antoine III

Otis Antoine III - December 05, 2024 at 07:15 AM

SG

“ Sending my heartfelt condolences to Aunty Betty and Cousins on the loss of Uncle Noel. We will always remember your visits to England where you would play the piano and Aunty would be by your side singing, you always with your camera ready to catch that special picture. You will be deeply missed by all. Rest in eternal peace Uncle Noel 🙏

Stephanie Greenwood - December 05, 2024 at 03:45 AM

SG

“ Stephanie Greenwood lit a candle in memory of Noel Owers



Stephanie Greenwood - December 05, 2024 at 03:37 AM

DN

“ Dr. Noel Owers was our family favorite sponsor from Sacred Heart Church. When we arrived in Richmond, Virginia 48 years ago as refugees from Vietnam, he offered us a place to stay. He was very humble and kind, I remember he used to come to our house when we reported a problem. We were surprised that he would handle all the fixing instead of sending someone else. Later on he was also my anatomy professor at MCV. He was so thoughtful and always tried to see if he could help us in anyway he could. We would never forget his gentleness and his friendly smile every time we saw him. He will be greatly missed! God has gained another angel in heaven. Our condolences to Mrs. Owers, Beverly and family.

Dao Nguyen Le

Dao Nguyen-Le - December 04, 2024 at 09:26 PM

SG

“ To my dearest Uncle Noel your were a shining light to everyone that came into contact with you. You will never be forgotten in heaven you now shine as a star . That is something that I will always remember about you Uncle. Your kindness your love and your enthusiasm for your family. God bless you uncle Andy rest in peace now with family.forevwr in our hearts and thoughts. Your ever loving niece. Xxx

Stephanie Greenwood - December 04, 2024 at 03:40 PM

SD

“ Shelby Davis lit a candle in memory of Noel Owers



Shelby Davis - December 03, 2024 at 08:13 PM

BM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Bridget Market - December 03, 2024 at 01:12 PM

BM

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Bridget Market - December 03, 2024 at 01:11 PM

TA

“ Tucson, Arizona purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Noel Oscar Owers.



Tucson, Arizona - December 03, 2024 at 12:33 PM

TA

“ Tucson, Arizona planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Noel Oscar Owers.

Tucson, Arizona - December 03, 2024 at 12:33 PM