



Dr. Kenneth Craycraft

December 15, 1949 - October 7, 2025

Dr. Kenneth Roger Craycraft, 75, passed peacefully from this life on October 7, 2025, in Dallas, Texas. A proud fourth generation Texan, he was born on December 15, 1949, in Henderson, Texas, to the late Ben and Geneva (Gibson) Craycraft.

He was raised in Mount Enterprise, Texas, graduating as Salutatorian from Mount Enterprise High School. From an early age, he inherited a deep love of learning — a heritage he shared with his mother, Geneva, and his maternal grandfather, both of whom dedicated their lives to education. At the same time, he learned the value of hard work and humility from his father, Ben, working alongside him in raising cattle and managing livestock. Together, those influences — to serve, to teach, and to labor — shaped a life rooted in service to others.

Dr. Craycraft earned his Bachelor's degree from Sam Houston State University, where he worked as a prison guard at the Huntsville State Penitentiary to pay his way through college — a testament to his determination and work ethic. He later received his Master's degree from Stephen F. Austin State University and his Doctorate in Education (Ed.D.) from Indiana University.

Following his education, Dr. Craycraft began his academic career as an

assistant professor at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. It was there that he met his future wife and lifelong partner, Dr. Sally (Johnson) Craycraft.

He later returned to Sam Houston State University as an associate professor, earning tenure and eventually serving in several administrative roles before joining the Texas State University System as its first Chief Academic Officer. For over a decade, he oversaw curriculum and programs across the system's member institutions, representing more than 72,000 students. During this time, he also served as Chancellor and acted as liaison to government agencies, collaborating closely with members of the Texas Legislature and the Texas congressional delegation in Washington, D.C.

Following his long and distinguished career in higher education, Dr. Craycraft continued to contribute his expertise as Executive Vice President and Senior Adviser at a privately held education technology company. He also served as president of several state and national professional organizations, worked as a consultant to the U.S. Department of Education, and dedicated time to several non-profit organizations.

Throughout their 41 years of marriage, Dr. Kenneth and Dr. Sally Craycraft made their homes in Huntsville, Georgetown, and finally Frisco, Texas. He was a devoted member of Stonebriar Community Church, where he joyfully served as an usher for many years. Dr. Craycraft will always be remembered for his unwavering integrity, his dedication to serving others, and his deep love for his family, faith, and community.

In addition to his parents, Dr. Craycraft was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Dr. Sally Craycraft.

Survivors include his son, Chad Craycraft and wife Krystle of Dallas; sisters, Deidra Rivers and husband Barry of Henderson, Texas, and Benita Tabch and

husband Moni of Mount Enterprise, Texas; brothers-in-law, Kurt Johnson and wife Lori of Millbury, Ohio, Scott Johnson and wife Michelle of Walbridge, Ohio, Rob Johnson and wife Michele of Cincinnati, Ohio; and sister-in-law, Debra Denman and husband Pat of Toledo, Ohio. He was also deeply loved by their children and grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Chad Craycraft, Joe Brannen, Ray Craycraft, Paul Craycraft, Chris Rivers, and Jackie Risinger.

Funeral services for Dr. Kenneth Roger Craycraft will be held at 2:00 PM on Monday, October 13, 2025, in the chapel of Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home, with Barry Rivers officiating. Interment will follow at King Cemetery in Mount Enterprise under the direction of Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 12:00 PM until service time on Monday at the funeral home.

Words of comfort may be shared with the family at www.crawfordacrim.com.

Cemetery Details

King Cemetery

FM 3055
Mt. Enterprise, TX 75681

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 13. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Crawford A. Crim Funeral Home
1414 South Main Street
Henderson, TX 75654

Service

OCT 13. 2:00 PM (CT)

Crawford A. Crim Funeral Home
1414 South Main Street
Henderson, TX 75654

Tribute Wall

RK

“ Ken was a caring individual personally & professionally. A consummate gentleman. If one looked up nice guy his picture would display. Committed to make a difference for people through education. We enjoyed his company in Frisco. Raised a fine son, Chad. Ron & Kimberly Klausner

Ron Klausner - October 13, 2025 at 11:31 AM

GL

“ Deepest sympathy to the Johnsons and Craycrafts. Ken and Sal put me up in Huntsville for a few days back in '83 on my way to Houston from Dallas. I was looking for a job in the oilfield. They were my family in Texas. Much love to all.



Geoffrey R Leking - October 13, 2025 at 11:15 AM

MM

“ Deidra and Barry,

So sorry to have lost touch. Our deepest sympathies on the loss of Ken. Both he and Sally were outstanding educators, but even better people. I so much enjoyed my interactions with him in Huntsville, Austin and Dallas. All of you and your extended families are in are prayers. We have great memories of our time working with you.

Debi and Mike Moses

Mike Moses - October 12, 2025 at 06:37 PM

KC

“ *Lori and Kurt...
What an accomplished soul! I knew Dr. Craycraft as I attended his
class at BGSU. Blessings for comfort and peace.*

Kathy Copus - October 12, 2025 at 01:21 PM

TM

“ *My deepest condolences to the entire family. I have fond memories
of Ken from our school days. My prayers to the family.*

Trudy Daniel McGill - October 11, 2025 at 09:23 AM

JB

“ *Jane Brightwell lit a candle in memory of Dr.
Kenneth Craycraft*



Jane Brightwell - October 11, 2025 at 09:11 AM

DM

“ *Dianne Mosher lit a candle in memory of
Kenneth Craycraft*



Dianne Mosher - October 09, 2025 at 03:33 PM

DM

“ Dear Chad & Krystle—We are so saddened by the passing of your dad/father-in-law. We will always remember Ken as a soft-spoken gentleman with the kindest, most generous heart. We are happy for him to be reunited with the love of his life, Sally, and to finally be at peace. God bless you both and help you through this difficult time. Sending thoughts, prayers and love to you, Dianne (Mom) & Chuck

Dianne Mosher - October 09, 2025 at 03:30 PM

JB

“ Ken and Sally were our neighbors and friends. They were fine people and we loved them. We are so sorry to hear this sad news about Ken. Much love to the family. You are in our thoughts and prayers. John & Teddy Butts

John & Teddy Butts - October 09, 2025 at 02:10 PM

CB

“ Ken was a nice fellow. He was fun to talk to. Kinda like Ben, always left him with a smile on my face. Prayers for the family.



Cliff Bilbo - October 09, 2025 at 07:34 AM

BL

“ Ken was just like his dad they were men of their words.
Brad Lee

Brad Lee - October 08, 2025 at 08:13 PM

DL

*I am so saddened to hear about Ken's passing. We went to school together an eternity ago and he was a great guy. I haven't seen him in many years but always knew he would be successful in whatever he chose to do. My prayers are for all his family. God bless all of you.
Diane (Snelson) Logan*

Diane Logan - October 10, 2025 at 10:57 AM

JC

“ *my sympathies to the Craycraft family. Went on a trip with Ken to Camp Deer Run in my childhood to visit i think.*

jim cowart - October 08, 2025 at 02:05 PM