



## Richard "Bobba" Mancel Bonnette

December 3, 1933 - April 30, 2020

With regards to the COVID19 mandates, attendance will be limited to 10 persons or less per visitation.

Graveside services will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at 2:00 P.M. in Calvary Cemetery for Richard "Bobba" Mancel Bonnette, 86, who died on Thursday, April 30, 2020 at his residence in Lafayette.

A drive thru viewing will be held Tuesday, May 5, at Martin & Castille's Downtown location from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM. Guests will be allowed to drive through the side portico of the funeral home, but please remain inside your vehicles. Family members and friends are encouraged to join the Facebook group and share memories and condolences. The graveside services will be streamed live on Facebook starting at 1:55 P.M. Please click on the link below to join his facebook group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RichardBonnette/>

Entombment will be in Calvary Cemetery Mausoleum.

Reverend Gary Schexnayder will conduct the graveside services.

Richard Mancel Bonnette was born in Alexandria, Louisiana, December 3rd 1933 during the Great Depression. As a young boy he developed a love for hunting and fishing that stayed with him until the day he died, a passion he was able to share with his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He attended high school at Menard Academy Memorial High School in Alexandria. After high school Richard went to Southwestern Louisiana Institute (currently UL-L) in Lafayette earning his Bachelor of Science in only 3 years. He then earned his Masters of Science in Industrial Arts at University of Southern Mississippi. A devoutly patriotic American, Richard faithfully served in the Louisiana National Guard.

Richard began his teaching career in Lake Providence, Louisiana in 1955 where he met the love of his life, Bobbie Ann Robinson. An absolute storybook love story led them to marriage that July at Pas Christian, Mississippi. Richard accepted a job teaching high school in Bogalusa, Louisiana. There he had three other loves of his life join he and Bobbie, as she gave birth to Kim, then Jan, and Toni. It was there that Richard built by his own two hands the home his family would live in for about a decade. Years later Richard got a professorship at his Alma Mater, University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette, where he taught Industrial Technology. In order to support his family Richard worked several other jobs, while at the same time coaching his daughter's softball teams to state championships. In his off time from those jobs and extracurricular activities, Richard again built, by hand, with the help of a 16-year-old boy, the house he lived in until he died. This house was filled with joy and holiday celebrations of his family and then an extended family that continued to grow for decades. Amid all his many jobs, he was tasked by the state to craft and author a DWI policy for the state of Louisiana. He traveled the country researching what would work and what would not, and finally develop the Louisiana Traffic Action Program (LATAP), with judge Kaliste Saloom. This program became a model for states nationwide and earned him many awards and much recognition. After spending 39 years as a professor, Richard retired in 1989 and continued to work helping draft and build houses for people while pursuing his passion for hunting and fishing with friends and family. Richard was the Secretary of Oakbourne Homeowners Association and was a friend to nearly everyone in the subdivision, really acting as the unofficial 'mayor' of Oakbourne. He was a strong conservationist as a supporter of wildlife and fisheries. He was deeply devoted to the state of Louisiana consuming every possible bit of information about the state, through books, museums, and speaking with anyone he met in every part of the state, and shared this knowledge intensely and in great detail with anyone who would listen. Richard loved to garden and grow his own vegetables, he was a master carpenter building furniture and worked on various other projects for people. He was a lover of sports, especially ULL athletics, LSU football and the New Orleans Saints. He was an excellent cook, but mostly loved to spend time with his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, playing and teaching them everything he knew.

He is survived by a sister, Elsie Ducote of Marksville, a sister-in-law, Sue Taylor of Baton Rouge, his daughters, Kim Bonnette Wright and Jan Bonnette-Breaux of Lafayette, and Toni Bonnette-Verdi and her husband Jim Verdi of Flower Mound Texas, six grandchildren Joshua Breaux and his wife Cheli of Broussard, Juliette Breaux Bechtold and her husband Adam of College Station Texas, Noelle Wright Edwards and her husband Jared of Denver Colorado, Natalie Wright of Austin, Texas, Nicolas Verdi of Denver, Mia Verdi of Flower Mound Texas, and five great grandchildren Jeffrey Breaux, Eden Bechtold, Jack Bechtold,

Jude Breaux, and Evangeline Bechtold; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Pallbearers will be Joshua and Jeffrey Breaux, Jim Verdi, Nicolas Verdi, Len Brown, Michael Ducote, Jimmie Hattaway, Jared Edwards, and Adam Bechtold.

Honorary Pallbearers will be Chad Bowers, Bob Schoeffler, Jay Pat, and Harry Deal.

View the obituary and guestbook online at [www.mourning.com](http://www.mourning.com)

Martin & Castille-DOWNTOWN-330 St. Landry St., Lafayette, LA 70506, 337-234-2311

# Cemetery

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**Calvary Mausoleum**  
355 Teurlings Dr.  
Lafayette, LA, 70501

# Events

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**MAY 5 Drive Through Viewing** 12:00PM - 01:00PM  

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**MAY 5** Martin & Castille Funeral Home - Downtown Location  
330 St. Landry St., Lafayette, LA, US, 70506

**MAY 5 Graveside Service** 02:00PM - 03:00PM  

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**MAY 5** Calvary Cemetery  
355 Teurlings Dr., Lafayette, LA, US, 70501

# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**Martin & Castille Funeral Home** - May 04 at 02:48 PM

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“ I am so saddened to hear about the loss of your father. My thoughts and prayers are with you, and I want to offer my sincere condolences. Sophie

**Sophie Marchand** - May 14 at 08:39 AM



“ Thank you

**janbonnette** - May 17 at 03:13 PM

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“ I was one of Mr. Bonnette's students in Bogalusa and he was my favorite teacher. Our senior class built and raffled off a boat to pay for a trip to Ford Motor Company's plant in Dearborn, Michigan with a side stop at the nuclear research facility in Oak Ridge Tennessee.

Also he gave me skills as a draftsman that enabled me to work my way through SLU and get a degree in Industrial Management.

I have lived here in Lafayette for 25 years and am really regretful that I did not know that Mr. Bonnette also lived in Lafayette. I would have loved to just thank him for what he contributed to my life.

Michael Marx

**Michael Marx** - May 06 at 11:26 AM



“ Omgosh. Thank you so much for sharing this tribute and memory. As his daughter, I love hearing this. And yes, he would have LOVED FOR YOU TO VISIT WITH HIM.

**Jan Bonnette-Breaux** - May 07 at 02:18 PM

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“ We are so sorry to hear about Richard’s passing. Mack and Barbara (Bobbie) Corcoran, Bogalusa, La

Paige Corcoran - May 05 at 08:05 PM



“ I remember y’all. I’m the middle daughter, Jan

Jan Bonnette-Breaux - May 07 at 02:21 PM



“ As you all prepare to say your last goodbyes to this wonderful man, my thoughts and memories turn to how charming and gracious he had always been towards me over the years. Always complimentary, telling this old lady how much younger and prettier I am every time he saw me, and telling me what a good job I did in raising his Son in Law. I will never forget the time Marc and I stopped by his house after a trip to New Orleans just to say hello. He insisted he make us some lunch before we headed for home and brought out some catfish bites that he fried to perfection. We sat there eating this fabulous meal and listened to his stories. It was such a relaxing afternoon. I am sorry that he has passed on but I do pray that his soul is reunited with his Bobbi and they will be watching over their girls and their precious families. Love to all of you.

Andrea Marcom - May 05 at 12:04 PM



“ We were saddened to hear that Mr. Bonnette had passed away. He was such a clever and witty gentleman and was always very kind to our family. My father, Captain Julo Breaux, worked with him for many years running Judge Saloom's evening driving school.

In retirement, dad worked on many carpentry projects with Mr. Bonnette. Carpentry was always a passtime my father loved and was always amazed at the skill and craftsmanship Mr. Bonnette demonstrated on many occasions. He always spoke of Mr. Bonnette kindly and felt honored to call him his friend. We will always be in Mr. Bonnette's debt for enhancing dads's retirement years. To the Bonnette family we express our deepest condolences in your time of grief and may you find peace. I smile knowing dad is with his friend again.

Jules Breaux and family,  
Salt Lake City, Utah

Jules Breaux - May 04 at 10:21 PM



“ I read your wonderful tribute to dad last week. Just reread! We all loved Julo too. He was dad’s dearest friend! His right hand man if you will! He helped build my house in 1981! Tho dad was 86, we feel he went way too soon. Thank you for your kind memorable words about dad. Jan



“ Jan, Kim, and Toni,  
I just wanted to extend my most heartfelt sympathy for the loss of your Dad. Your beautiful Mom and Dad were very special. I think we were all lucky to be such good neighbors and friends! Thoughts and prayers, Tricia Patt Burnam

Ray Burnam - May 04 at 05:41 PM



“ Thank you Trish! Appreciate your kind words.  
janbonnette - May 17 at 03:11 PM



“ 251 files added to the album LifeTributes



Martin & Castille Funeral Home - May 04 at 02:32 PM

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“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Richard "Bobba" Mancel Bonnette.



May 04 at 01:08 PM

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“ Dear Jan & family,

I got to know Mr. Richard years ago through weekday mass at St. Genevieve Catholic Church. We started talking & then, before you know it, I made a friend. I gave him a prayer blanket when he had his knee surgery. After that, I called too check on him and we had the best conversation. What a gentleman heaven is gaining.

Please know I will be praying for the repose of his soul & for the family. When I visit my dad's tomb I will stop & pray at his & your mom's because they are in close proximity.

God Bless & Keep You during this difficult time.

Sincerely,  
Liz Webb Pavy

Elizabeth Pavy - May 04 at 12:19 PM



“ Thank you Liz, I appreciate it.

janbonnette - May 17 at 03:15 PM



“ Nettie Verdi purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Richard "Bobba" Mancel Bonnette.



Nettie Verdi - May 04 at 09:38 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Richard "Bobba" Mancel Bonnette.



May 03 at 10:49 PM



“ Please know that our hearts and prayers are with all of you. We are saddened for your the loss of your precious father. Each generation leaves eternal significance on the generations that follow and how lovely it will be for each member of your family to carry on your dad's love and characteristics for your next generation. Mr. Richards life gets celebrated in all of your lives. Such a blessing while he was here, and now even more glorious with our Father in heaven!!! All of you are in our thoughts a prayers for peace, joy, comfort and strength. With love; Lynn, John, Shane and Sarah Poole.

Lynn Poole - May 03 at 09:14 PM



“ Lynn, this is so true! Beautifully written and read. Thank you

janbonnette - May 17 at 03:17 PM

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“ We wish to express our condolences to his family. He was an awesome person. He never forgot a person. Our son played football with his grandson and he never forgot us. He always went out of his way to seek us out and speak to us, He was a good man. We will keep him in our thoughts and prayers. The Burton Suir family

burton suir - May 03 at 07:55 PM



“ Thank you. This is Jan, Josh is my son.

janbonnette - May 17 at 03:32 PM

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“ The last time I saw Professor Bonnette was at his dear late wife's funeral and, even then, he was as lovely to encounter as a ray of sunshine. I had only met him a few times before that, but, each time, it was easy to see what a good and gentle man he was. I grieve for my dear friends his daughters,, and for the rest of the family in the loss of their beloved patriarch. Rest in Peace, Richard.

Corinne Myers - May 03 at 06:22 PM



“ Thank you . These are fine words !

janbonnette - May 17 at 03:38 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard "Bobba" Mancel Bonnette.



May 03 at 03:10 PM

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“ Condolences to Kim, Jan and Toni. Seems like only yesterday we were all partying together. Now, Richard is with his beloved Bobby. We will miss you Richard. Love to all!  
Hubert and Vickie Hebert

Hubert Hebert - May 03 at 02:38 PM



“ Thank you we miss y'all very much. Jan  
janbonnette - May 17 at 03:39 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Richard "Bobba" Mancel Bonnette.



May 03 at 01:29 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Richard "Bobba" Mancel Bonnette.



May 03 at 12:07 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard "Bobba" Mancel Bonnette.



May 03 at 11:15 AM



“ Sabria E Barber lit a candle in memory of Richard "Bobba" Mancel Bonnette



**Sabria E Barber** - May 03 at 06:49 AM



“ You have been so loved Mr. Richard, may you rest in peace.

**Sabria E Barber** - May 03 at 06:51 AM



“ So sorry to hear the news. Condolence to the girls. Such a close family

**Billy Pittenger** - May 03 at 06:48 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard "Bobba" Mancel Bonnette.



May 02 at 11:36 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard "Bobba" Mancel Bonnette.



May 02 at 07:48 PM

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“ I sat and visited with Richard for over an hour on Sunday. He told me that he went to Catholic schools in Alexandria and Menard Holy Savior School until his junior year. He graduated from Fifth Ward in Avoyelles Parish, where many of his friends attended. He was a native French speaker, learning from his grandparents. It was great to have the opportunity to visit with him. He has been our neighbor for thirty-five years. We will miss him.  
Lester and Irene Gauthier

**LESTER GAUTHIER** - May 01 at 01:41 PM