



## Dr. Robert Denby

March 23, 1937 - April 9, 2020

Dateline: Godfrey

Dr. Robert Valentine Denby, 83, died at 10:45 a.m. Thursday, April 9, 2020 at his home. He was born on March 23, 1937 to the late Clarence E. Denby and Gertrude A. (Gahr) Denby in Alton, IL. Robert married Nancy E. Dotson on August 17, 1968 at Cherry Street Baptist Church in Alton and they had almost 52 years together. They were blessed with three children, John F. Denby of Plano, TX, Ruth A. (Roger) Waggener of Alton, and Mark D. (Melissa) Denby of Godfrey; and six grandchildren, Isaiah, Gideon, and Elsie Waggener of Alton and Taylor, Gabriella, and Emry Denby of Godfrey. Also surviving is a brother, Donald Denby of St. Augustine, FL. He was preceded in death by a brother, Jack Denby. He was a 1955 graduate of Alton High School. He earned a BS in education from SIU Carbondale, an MA in English & Literature from SIU Edwardsville, and a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Illinois. While at U of I he was a senior research associate for National Council of Teachers of English. He taught English at West Junior High School in Alton for 7 years; taught 22 years at University of Missouri, Kansas City, where he received the Chancellor's Excellence in Teaching Award; and 14 years at SIU Edwardsville retiring from there in 2009. Longtime member of DeMolay and Franklin Masonic Lodge #25 in Alton, where he served in many capacities including leading the DeMolay Dance Band. Robert served as a deacon at Nall Avenue Baptist Church in Prairie Village, KS and

was on various church committees, as well as teaching Sunday School and vacation Bible school. He provided leadership and mentoring for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. He was a member of the Board of Planning for the City of Mission, KS; member of Board for Heart of America Indian School, member of North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. He was a recipient of Boy Scouts of America, Order of Arrow Vigil Honor. His vigil name was "Devoted Humble Mentor." He also received the Good Shepherd Award from BSA and the Association of Baptists. In 2014, he was named as a member of the inaugural group of Distinguished Alumni of Alton High School. Robert's life was spent in pursuits with the goal of promoting faith in the creator and the betterment of youth and community. God, country and family were the center of his humble, yet extraordinary life. Services will be private with Reverend Alex Melton officiating. Memorials may be given to one of the following organizations whose vision align with Robert's servant heart; Alton Educational Foundation, Alton Band and Orchestra Builders and Heartland Baptist Church. Gent Funeral Home in Alton is in charge of arrangements. Online guestbook and information may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Robert Denby*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Dr. Robert Denby*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *Dr. Denby was the kindest person I think I have ever known. He was my mentor at UMKC during the 1980s when I worked on my Masters in English Education. I believe that I took every class that he taught, and he even let me teach his Adolescent Literature classes several times during various semesters for graduate credit. Later, he allowed me to work as a student teacher supervisor at UMKC. He was also responsible for getting me a part-time teaching position at Avila College. I credit his teaching and love of others as major contributing factors to my own long teaching career (42 years). I will miss him greatly, but I will always think fondly of him and his wonderful family. Love to all of you. Fran Libra Koenigsdorf, Overland Park, KS*

**Fran Koenigsdorf** - December 03, 2020 at 09:11 AM



“ *He was a great professor at SIUE. His love for Charles Dickens was legendary.*

**TD** - April 28, 2020 at 02:04 AM

PH

“ Mr. Denby was my 9th grade English teacher at West Jr. in Alton. He was one of my all time favorite teachers, made learning exciting and fun. He was a very kind man. Have many fond memories of him and the class he taught. My thoughts and prayers are with his family now.

Phillip N Hyde - April 15, 2020 at 11:55 AM

JP

“ Dr. Denby was one of the first faculty members I met when I was hired at SIUE in 1995. Robert was the best person I have ever worked with over the years. He was kind and encouraged me in my career with the grace of a true Christian. He will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his entire family at this time.



Jean Paterson - April 14, 2020 at 07:13 PM

CV

“ Dr. Denby was one of the first people I met when I started at SIUE and immediately could sense his compassion and calling to help others. He always kept the needs of students first and showed great professionalism in every interaction. His passing is a loss for the whole world. My condolences to his family and friends.

CV - April 14, 2020 at 04:05 PM

AS

“ Dr. Denby was my instructor, and advisor at SIUE. He was always so kind and accommodating. I am truly sorry to hear of his passing.

AS - April 14, 2020 at 03:50 PM

DW

“ Praying for all of you today. A sad day for those left behind, a celebration for your dad who knows no more pain and burden. He's resting in the presence of His Savior. Praising God that Bob passed the truth of the gospel in word and deed to his family and those whose life he touched. 🙏❤️

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**Diana Wilson** - April 14, 2020 at 01:18 PM

BR

“ He was a kind, hard-working colleague. It was truly a pleasure to have known him.

*Betty Richardson*

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**Betty Richardson** - April 14, 2020 at 12:27 PM

SM

“ Dr. Denny was a colleague of mine for several years when I was a new assistant professor at SIUE. He was a delightful person, warm, caring, and committed to helping students become better: better teachers and humans. His life touched so many. Rest In Peace. My prayers are with your family.

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**Sharon McGee** - April 14, 2020 at 08:33 AM

LJ

“ Bob was a wonderfully kind man and I'm sorry to hear of his passing. He and your family will be in my prayers.

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**Linda Jaworski-Moiles** - April 14, 2020 at 04:10 AM

PR

“ *One of my favorite teachers. Fond memories of him.* ”



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**Pamela Ready** - April 13, 2020 at 04:24 PM

ST

“ *Dear Mark, Melissa and Family, so very sorry for your loss. Bill and Sandy Thompson* ”

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**Sandy Thompson** - April 12, 2020 at 08:42 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Robert Denby.* ”



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April 11, 2020 at 08:49 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Dr. Robert Denby.* ”



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April 11, 2020 at 06:04 PM

JB

“ *Jill E. Bartlett lit a candle in memory of Dr. Robert Denby*



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**Jill E. Bartlett** - April 11, 2020 at 01:44 PM

TB

“ *Teresa Belangee lit a candle in memory of Dr. Robert Denby*



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**Teresa Belangee** - April 11, 2020 at 01:16 PM