



## Timothy Ray Jenney

August 15, 1952 - April 4, 2022

Dr. Timothy Ray Jenney, 69, passed away peacefully in his home in Owasso, OK, on April 4, 2022 in the presence of his loving wife Denise Vaniadis Jenney and his children. Remembering this man of wit, humor and determination are his daughter Theresa Dyke (Pete), son Tim Jenney (Hillary), son Jeff Jenney (Stephanie), and their mother Becki Jenney. Other survivors include his brother Peter Jenney; grandchildren Maddie, Becky, and Max Dyke; Parker, Emerson and Holly Jenney; and Ethan and Justin Jenney.

Tim was a native of Battle Creek, MI. As a high school athlete he was a member of both the football team and the wrestling squad and served as co-captain for each of these teams. His competitive spirit and willingness to take risks were fostered during this time of his life. He would later carry these traits into his professional life.

After high school Tim went on to earn a BA in Education from Michigan State University, an MA in Educational Leadership from Western Michigan University and a PhD in Educational Administration from Michigan State University. Later, when he was a seasoned school superintendent, he would decide to sharpen his business acumen by earning an MBA from the College of William and Mary.

Public education became Tim's chosen career path because he believed

education was often many children's best hope. His commitment to students, combined with his natural inclination to blaze trails on their behalf, earned him a reputation as a change agent. It was a reputation that would stay with him throughout his career.

He began his career as a teacher in Battle Creek elementary and junior high classrooms. At the age of 26, he was appointed as an elementary principal in Hopkins, MI. When he became superintendent for Leland Public Schools in Michigan he was, at age 29, the youngest superintendent in Michigan.

Tim left Michigan in 1990 to assume the post of superintendent for Union Public Schools in Tulsa, OK. During his tenure he reconfigured the grade structure to provide for a grade 6/7 building and a single grade 8th grade building. He led a successful bond effort that resulted in a new 6/7 grade complex. He also led efforts to strengthen the student leadership program for the district, resulting in securing the National Association of Student Councils annual conference for Union High School.

In 1996, he was hired to lead Virginia Beach City Public Schools, which at the time was the second largest school division in Virginia. Tim was first tasked with righting the school system's financial ship as it had suffered a \$12.5 million deficit. He did so efficiently and expeditiously. It was in this school system that Tim's renown as a change agent would be solidified. He literally changed the landscape of Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VBCPS) for the better. Under his leadership, VBCPS opened a full-time gifted elementary school; forged a partnership with Tidewater Community College to build an Advanced Technology Center; and established a thriving high school academy system which included a Legal Studies Academy; a Technology Academy; a Global Studies Academy; a Visual and Performing Arts Academy; and a Health Sciences Academy. He also led a comprehensive capital improvement program that involved the building or renovation of 26 schools; engineered the

start-up of a distance learning program that helped ensure high school students across the division would have access to the courses they needed; and directed the effort to put fiber optic cable into the ground resulting in VBCPS having, at the time, the fastest wide area network in the state. He also advocated for the construction of Renaissance Academy, an alternative school, and made sure that the building would include the Princess Anne County Training School/Union Kempsville High School Museum, which was a secondary school for African American children during the time of segregation. He felt strongly that this was an important story in the city's history and the contributions of those students and teachers had to be saluted.

In 2006 Tim Jenney left Virginia to assume the post of superintendent of the Fort Bend Independent Schools District in Sugar Land, Texas. He addressed issues of rapid growth, leading bond issues and construction for 14 schools; established an early childhood education center; oversaw the creation of a district accountability system; ensured the start-up of a comprehensive character education program; and created an Office of Safe and Secure Schools, which ensured that this large district would provide solutions to campus security, gang-related behaviors, attendance and truancy and would also operate within a framework of emergency management protocols.

But life eventually changed for the change agent when he was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. He valiantly fought the debilitating effects of his affliction. He created fine pieces of furniture in his woodworking shop; participated in Rock Steady Boxing for Parkinsons; attended church and Bible studies; and visited his children and grandchildren. We take comfort in this single truth: Thousands and thousands of children have benefitted from his legacy and will continue to do so for years to come. His was indeed a life well lived.

Tim's family will hold a private gathering at a later time. If you desire to make a tax deductible donation in Tim's memory, please consider these:

American Parkinson Disease Assoc – Okla Chapter

PO Box 3113

Broken Arrow, OK 74013

Seasons Hospice

6532 E 71st

Tulsa, OK 74133

# Previous Events

## Memorial Fund

APR 4 (CT)

American Parkinson Disease Association- Oklahoma Chapter  
P.O. Box 3113  
Broken Arrow, OK 74013  
<http://www.parkinson.org>

## Memorial Fund

APR 4 (CT)

Seasons Hospice  
6532 East 71st  
Tulsa, OK 74133

## Private Service

APR 4.

Private Family Services

# Tribute Wall

DB

“ I just learned today that Dr. Jenney had passed away and it broke my heart. I was PTA president of Peters Elementary School in the Union School District in Tulsa. I was honored to be able to work with Dr. Jenney on several issues, including one of the most important bond issues in our district - the one that created the 6/7th grade center. He attended my general PTA meetings as well as my board meetings. When he left to go to Virginia, my board and I put together a going away luncheon for him at my house. We had him sit at the head of the table and he regaled us with many of his hilarious stories of his life. We missed him when he moved but he certainly left a shining legacy for our Union School District. God Bless you Dr. Jenney!! May you rest in peace.

Lyn Borders

---

**Desiree L Borders** - June 26, 2022 at 09:41 AM

PP

“ I was sorry to hear of Dr. Jenney's passing as I know he put up a very determined and strong fight. He was most proud of his family and the work he did for the many districts he served. I was very fortunate to serve under his leadership as a principal and befitted from his direction. May he rest in peace and may his family savor the memories with him that they will hold forever.

---

**Patti J Pitcock** - April 18, 2022 at 07:45 PM

M(

“Wow... Mr. Jenney was my 6th grade teacher at Post School elementary in Battle Creek. The news of his passing hit me hard. Over the years, I've often thought of him and where he had gone with his teaching. Reading his obituary, of course he went on to do great things. I was the youngest of 5, and lower to middle class. He always made me feel special when my real life wasn't. On my birthday him and mr. Bush made a big deal of it and gave me a celebratory paddle. I laughed so hard and felt so special. He instilled values in me I still hold true. Rest easy to one of my most favorite teachers and mentors. Soar with the angels, until I see you again. Much love Missy Hartung (melissa keyes)



---

**melissa keyes (hartung)** - April 14, 2022 at 12:49 PM

CB

“I was on the Battle Creek Central wrestling team with Tim. What an amazing athlete and competitor! What a man of accomplishment!

*My sincerest condolences to Tim's family,*

*Chuck Bridges, BCCHS '70*

---

**Chuck Bridges** - April 13, 2022 at 12:07 AM

BM

“ Dr. Jenny is much loved by the Leibert families of Battle Creek, Michigan and of Harlingen, Texas. Dr. Jenny and Coach Al Leibert shared plenty of football war stories. Coach Leibert loved the entire Jenny family. In 2010, Dr. Jenny saw the potential in a newly minted elementary school teacher named Katie Leibert, Coach's granddaughter. Katie began teaching in the Fort Bend School District, in which Dr. Jenny was the superintendent. Without his support, this energetic and loving teacher would have been tripped up by short-sighted and prejudiced principals. Dr. Jenny stepped up to bat for the newcomer and became a Leibert hero. We look forward to sharing the Great and Glorious Banquet of Jesus with him.

---

**bruce leibert, md** - April 11, 2022 at 10:45 PM

SS

“ Tim and I were colleagues in Region 2 during his time in Virginia Beach. He was an outstanding leader and an even better friend. His wit and humor made the hard work more tolerable. I always admired his commitment and willingness to take risks and drive change. We shared many conversations and events and his company was always a positive during work meetings. I, and many of us here in Virginia, are truly saddened at his passing. Please accept my sympathy on this loss.  
Steve Staples (former York County superintendent)

---

**Steven R. Staples** - April 11, 2022 at 08:09 PM

DR

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to Tim’s loving family. It was an honor and blessing to have Tim in our lives. Tim introduced my wife and I to one another in 1976, and was our Best Man in our wedding. If you have ever heard his infectious laugh, it would stick in your memory, as it does in ours. May God comfort and richly bless the Jenney family, Don & Julie Root

---

**Don & Julie Root** - April 11, 2022 at 06:40 PM

MM

“ Tim was my hero! He promoted me to assistant superintendent. He was a joy to work with! He did many wonderful things for our children in Virginia Beach. He always did the right thing for children. I miss him. He held our staff to high standards and rewarded good work. He had a wonderful sense of humor.

*Maynard E Massey, Ed.D.*

---

**Maynard Edward Massey** - April 11, 2022 at 05:56 PM

MM

“ Heartfelt condolences to the family from Tim’s classmates at Battle Creek Central class of 1970. He will be greatly missed.

---

**Melinda Mitchell** - April 11, 2022 at 11:34 AM

RK

“ *Tim Jenney was a great friend and a great boss and truly a very genuine and compassionate human being. I had the privilege of being on his leadership team and always admired his leadership style. He made all of us feel valued and respected. Virginia Beach Public Schools are one of the most prized institution for learning because of Tim’s farsightedness and commitment to the success of children. He was focused and tenacious. I salute him for his accomplishments and pray for his soul to Rest In Peace.*

---

**Ramesh Kapoor** - April 11, 2022 at 11:29 AM