

# IN HONOR OF DR. ELVIN HOLT

Dr. Elvin Holt, professor emeritus, Texas State University,  
passed away on September 16, 2023.

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He was born in Bay City, Texas, on September 25, 1945. Services will be held on Saturday, September 30, at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, 3300 Avenue F, Bay City, Texas. In lieu of flowers, his family asks that Dr. Holt be remembered through contributions to the Dr. Elvin Holt Scholarship Fund, in care of the Calaboose African-American History Museum, P.O. Box 481, San Marcos, Texas, 78667.

Dr. Holt, professor emeritus at Texas State, was the first Black tenured professor in the Department of in English. He joined the Southwest Texas State University faculty in 1983, serving the Texas State and San Marcos community for 37 years. He was one of 20 professors selected to participate in the university's first year long excellence in teaching and learning seminar. Holt received three fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and was named professor of the year by the Association of Black Students in 1989. Holt's research, publication and conference presentations focused on African literature, African American literature, cultural studies and folklore. He was responsible for bringing the model used for the multicultural course transformation program to Texas State. He

co-edited ***Acting Up and Getting Down: Plays by African American Texans*** and co-authored ***Stages of Struggle and Celebration: A Production History of Black Theatre in Texas***, both with Dr. Sandra Mayo, also of Texas State University.



Dr. Holt summed up his goals as an educator with these words, "I'm trying to make people aware of the rich legacy of the African-American writer. I want people to know that the legacy contains more than the works of the few writer they may have heard of. There is a great deal of education to be done in that regard." His graduate seminars have focused on authors including Toni Morrison, August Wilson, Zora Neale Hurston, Richard Wright, as well as African American autobiography. Research files for "Stages of Struggle and Celebration: A Production History of Black Theatre in Texas" were donated to the University's highly regarded Witliff Collections, dedicated to preserving and presenting works of the region's storytellers.

Dr. Dan Lochman, a professor of English at Texas State and a colleague of Dr. Holt, described him as “tenacious in his conviction that students can learn. That didn’t mean he made things simple for them. Beneath his toughness was a warm and caring person, motivating his teaching. And he held standards in writing he learned from great teachers as an undergraduate at Southwest Texas State.”



Dr. Holt served both within his academic community and the larger community, including serving on numerous committees within the university, as well as serving as a member of the Heritage Association of San Marcos, the San Marcos Historic Preservation Commission, the Hays County Historical Commission, the LBJ-MLK Crossroads Memorial Committee, and the San Marcos Sesquicentennial Commission. For several years, he served as a Sunday school teacher and brotherhood president for First Baptist Church (NBC), and has served as secretary for the Pride of San Marcos Lodge No. 494 PHA for more than 30 years. Holt also served as an original board member and president of the Calaboose Museum, which serves as a home for African American history and culture in San Marcos and Hays County.

In 2021, Texas State University recognized Dr. Holt for his work in multicultural curriculum development by naming a street in his honor, Elvin Holt Drive, at its Round Rock campus. At the naming ceremony, former Texas State University President Denise Trauth said, "I hope that as we etch these names into our university's history, we're reminded of all the courageous trailblazers that came before us and helped shape our institution." They laid a foundation decades ago that we have a privilege and responsibility to build upon today, to move our institution to achieve greater levels of equity and inclusion."

Dr. Holt earned a bachelor's degree in English from Prairie View A&M University, a historically Black college/university, a master's degree in English from the former Southwest Texas State University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky in Lexington.

The son of the late Naomi Holt Stredic and Aaron Stredic, Sr., Dr. Holt is survived by sisters Flora Jackson, Nelda Stredic Jackson, and Vivian Stredic, and brother Errol Stredic. He was predeceased by his brother Aaron Stredic, Jr.