



Douglas Neal Roper

July 26, 1949 - March 13, 2023

Douglas Neal Roper, age 73, died on the morning of March 13, 2023 at Methodist Hospital in San Antonio, Texas with his beloved wife by his side.

Doug graduated from Balboa High School in the Panama Canal Zone. He moved to San Antonio, Texas in 1969 where he met and married Janet Lee Van Sickle. Doug was an accomplished artist and his love for art and history began with his childhood in Europe, Central America and multiple states in the U.S.

He was encouraged to pursue his artistic talent by the noted sculptress, Waldine Tauch and his formal training began at the Warren Hunter School of Art in the 1970s. His first fifteen years were spent doing watercolors, commercial art and architectural renderings. Then after taking a sculpting course with Louis Guzman, his first bronze was cast in 1988 at Stevens Art Foundry in Bulverde, Texas.

Since then, he has been creating miniature, life sized and large commissioned bronze sculptures. As part of a cultural exchange exhibit in the early 1990s, Doug was selected as one of the 10 artists whose work was sent to San Antonio's sister city, Kyoto, Japan. He was a life member of the Coppini Academy of Fine Arts.

Doug was one of the founding artists of the Carriage House Gallery in Boerne, Texas. He participated in that cooperative gallery for many years, loved working with the talented artists there and truly enjoyed interacting with the public. Now some of his work can be seen at the Helotes Gallery in Helotes, Texas.

Some of his larger commissions include:

- “The Rattler” at St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, Texas
- “Sandhill Cranes” at Sandhill Shores, Talveston Island, Texas
- The 2004,2005,2006 Airforce Academy senior plaques in Colorado Springs, Colorado
- “The War Dog Memorial” in front of the H. Lee Dennison Federal Building in Long Island, New York
- “Taking Flight” at Morgan’s Wonderland, San Antonio, Texas
- “SuperFrog” at Texas Christian university, Fort Worth, Texas
- “Heart of UIW” at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas

Doug believed that he had a responsibility to develop and refine his God-given talent and, as a personal statement of faith, he signed his work with an Ichthus. His work can be viewed at www.dougroper.com.

He is survived by his wife, Janet, and their son, Sean Roper, grandson, Sean, and granddaughter, Serenity of San Antonio, Texas. He is also survived by his brother, Rev. Bert Roper and wife Sue of Madera, California, Ruben and Mellonee Villalobos, niece, Jennifer Roper Becker & Mike, nephew, Michael Roper & Elizabeth, John & Jeanine Van Sickle, Kealy & Tracy Van Sickle, Taylor Van Sickle, Jordan & Tony Douthit, Gordon & Nancy Van Sickle, Alex Van Sickle, Mallory & Matt Selby, Mary Parker, Bruce Van Hoose, Samantha & Jared Olivier, Katie Parker, Amber O'Connell, and numerous great nieces & nephews. sister in law, Norma Roper, cousins, Kay and Dick Melbert Tarsney and a wealth of friends who comprise his church and art families.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Shirley Roper, his sister, Pam, his brother George. And Jimmy and Laverne Melbert.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday, April 1, 2023 at Christ Fellowship United Methodist Church at 2:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, you can honor Doug by contributing to support things that were near and dear to his heart: a college fund for his grandchildren * or by contributing to the Achievers Center for Education, a Christian school for students with special needs.

* An account will be established at USAA Federal Savings Bank. Contact Janet Roper (210-844-2517) for details.

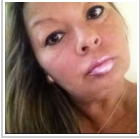
Previous Events

Celebration of His Life

APR 1. 2:00 PM (CT)

Christ Fellowship United Methodist Church
10915 Shaenfield Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78254

Tribute Wall



“ I am so sorry, all of my condolences to his wife and family. I just found this by research and am saddened. Doug used me for two of his sculptures and I've always been very proud to be a part of his art. Titled: First Born and White Dove. I am sorry for your loss.
JoAnna Steigleder

JoAnna Steigleder - December 28, 2025 at 02:27 PM



“ Deepest condolences to Janet and the family. Doug was a man of wisdom and kindness and will be missed.

Jeremy Henn - March 31, 2023 at 05:58 PM



“ I met Doug at the Carriage House . I was always amazed by his sculptures . One time I said I was going to NYC and I was told the full size War Dog Memorial was in Long Island so my friend and I made sure we went to see it. It was such an honor to have known Doug .

Karen Wohlrabe - March 31, 2023 at 02:36 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Douglas Neal Roper.



March 29, 2023 at 01:14 PM

JV

“ Doug, we'll see you again brother.
We'll miss your sense of humor, unconditional love for your family & friends.
You used Gods artistic talents to leave everlasting artworks for many.

John & Jeanine VanSickle - March 22, 2023 at 04:41 PM

MH

“ Thank you so much for all you did while I was in San Antonio. I enjoyed the retreats we went on & the time we had together. 😊❤️

Margo Hipps - March 22, 2023 at 09:59 AM

MH

Thank you for the sail boat painting I received for a wedding present when I got married in 1982.

Margo Hipps - March 22, 2023 at 10:04 AM



“*Doug was a man of many talents. Besides his incredible art, Doug was a wonderful chef, and he often shared his creations with his numerous hungry friends. He made his own fireworks, and yet still had all his fingers, and their house is still standing. He should have won an award for telling the world's longest jokes, while suckering in his audience into thinking they were true stories right up to the punchline. He loved entertaining, laughing, and living. Doug's greatest talent though, was loving. If you were friends with Doug and Janet, you were usually friends for life. He loved the Lord and his family with all his heart. When Steve and I visited with him in those last days, his body was a wreck, but his physical suffering couldn't conquer his grateful heart. He talked to us, not about his misery, but about all the blessings he'd had in his lifetime, and how much he'd been given. He talked especially about what a wonderful wife, steady ally, staunch supporter, and incredibly loving woman he'd found in Janet. He couldn't find enough words to describe what she meant to him. He just kept saying he was blessed. How right he was. See you later, Doug.*

Steve and Marsha Owings

Marsha Owings - March 20, 2023 at 02:36 PM

MS

“*Thank you Doug for the many years of friendship since our school days in Beebe Arkansas.*

Michael Starr - March 20, 2023 at 08:17 AM

WP

“ *It was always a delight to chat with Doug at the Carriage House Gallery. We knew he was a talented artist, but we also sensed he was a kind and gentle man. Doug's love of and commitment to his grandchildren was especially evident.*

Like many others, we have seen several of his large, commissioned works at Morgan's Wonderland, the university, and elsewhere. Most meaningful to us, however, is John 10--a bronze of The Good Sheperd--which we see daily in our living room and share with others who visit.

*Rest in peace, Doug.
Wes and Paula*

Wes and Paula Patrick - March 19, 2023 at 05:52 PM

MO

*Doug had so many talents besides his art. He was an amazing chef, and often shared his creations with his many hungry friends. He made his own fireworks for celebrations, and loved to amaze an audience. He could probably win an award for telling the world's longest jokes, stringing the listeners along into believing they were real stories all the way to the punchline. One of his greatest talents was loving, I believe. If you were friends with Doug and Janet, you were probably going to be friends for life. He loved his friends, his art, and he really loved life and laughter. Most of all, he loved the Lord and his family. He also had a grateful heart, and he expressed this to us in our visits with him during his last days. Physically, he was miserable, but what he talked about was the many blessings he had experienced in his life. He especially talked about what a wonderful wife, companion, and staunch supporter he had in Janet, and how much their love meant to him. He was such a presence in so many lives, and his memory will stay with all of us. But long after those of us who loved him are gone, his sculptures and paintings will live on. See you later, Doug.
Marsha and Steve Owings*

Marsha L Owings - March 20, 2023 at 12:56 AM