

SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE BUSINESS MEETING 2020

MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS

Tom Des Jean (by Ann Cordell and Irv Quitmeyer)



Whereas, the Southeastern Archaeological Conference and the Big South Fork community lost a valued colleague and archaeology advocate on November 2, 2020, with the death of Thomas Paul Des Jean; and

Whereas he served in the Navy's Air Wing during the Vietnam War, and he earned his B.A. and M.A. degrees in Anthropology from the University of Florida, where he made many lasting friendships with fellow students and advisors; and

Whereas he spent 28 years as NPS archaeologist at the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area in Oneida, (Scott County), Tennessee; and

Whereas his work to preserve the history of this national park had an indelible impact on the BSF's formative years, during which he helped to record more than 1,300 archaeological sites and is largely responsible for much of what is now known about the Big South Fork's history; and

Whereas he developed a successful monitoring plan for some of the park's archaeological sites to stamp out looting, and ultimately helped prosecute offenders who were destroying its archaeological record; and

Whereas, following his retirement in 2014, he stayed on in Scott County as an adjunct faculty member at Roane State Community College and assisted the Museum of Scott County's efforts to preserve local history; then

Therefore, be it resolved that the members of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference express their sympathy to Tom's wife Vicki and their children Nina Benton and Mathew Des Jean, and to his many colleagues, and friends.