

2025

# In Memoriam

## Sandra Brennan



Sandra Mary Brennan passed away on June 30, 2025. Sandy was born in Philadelphia on July 27, 1939, where she attended St. Edward's Grade School, Little Flower High School, and the West Philadelphia Catholic High School for Girls. Her career started at State Farm Insurance Company, where she met the love and inspiration of her life, Dave Brennan.

The couple married in 1960 and moved to Dallas in 1979. Sandy was a devout Catholic and an active member of All Saints Catholic Church in Dallas, where she worked and developed deep relationships with lifelong friends. She and Dave also attended Prince of Peace Catholic Church after they moved to Plano, which became home for nearly three decades.

Generous with both time and treasure, Sandy and Dave supported many organizations, including St. Joseph's University, the University of Dallas, Baylor Medical Center, Children's Health, Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano, Dallas Children's Advocacy Center, Star Children's Charity, Catholic Charities, Dallas Symphony Pops Orchestra, Habitat for Humanity, and the Notre Dame School.

Sandy and Dave were members of the Texas Health Plano Chairman's Council and the Hawthorne Society. They were faithful donors to Texas Health Plano, supporting its capital campaign in the early 2000s along with the DeMille fund for pediatric care.

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# In Memoriam

James Sidney  
Cox, M.D.



James Sidney Cox, M.D., passed away April 17, 2025. Jim was born on November 17, 1950, in Homer, Louisiana, and attended LSU in Baton Rouge. He completed his prerequisites for medical school early, enabling him to attend medical school at Tulane University after just three years.

He moved to Texas for his internship at John Peter Smith Hospital (JPS), where he met Judy, a nurse, on his first night of rotations in 1975. Upon completing his residency, he moved to Athens, Texas, where he opened a family practice clinic. He moved back to Fort Worth in 1984, and again ran into Judy at JPS. They married in Athens in October 1984.

Jim worked with Emergency Medicine Consultants (EMC) at Texas Health Fort Worth in the emergency department from 1986 until 2010, when he shifted his focus to administrative duties with EMC.

Jim was a member of the Tarrant County Medical Society and received the Distinguished Humanitarian Award from his peers for his visionary work in founding Project Access Tarrant County (PATC). The organization was dedicated to providing healthcare access to the uninsured and working poor in Tarrant County. He served as PATC's medical director from 2010 to 2018.

Members of the Hawthorne Society, Jim and Judy supported several projects at Texas Fort Worth and contributed to the A. Compton Broders, M.D. Excellence in Medical Education Fund.

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# In Memoriam

Howard A.  
Dudley



Howard Dudley, born on November 27, 1933, in Farrell, Mississippi, passed away on March 7, 2025, in Blum, Texas. He graduated from Trimble Tech High School in Fort Worth and attended the University of North Texas, where he met and married Sherry Ann Durrett in 1955.

Howard worked for Climatic Air in Dallas until 1961, when he purchased Technical Chemical Company, a small packing company in the Oak Cliff area. In 1974, Howard purchased land near Dallas and built his first manufacturing plant. The business expanded to a 13-acre site and by the 1990s there were five buildings, totaling 117,000 square feet. In 1998, he built a plant in Cleburne, allowing the company additional automation and production capacity. With this extra capacity, the company served new clients, include DuPont, Honeywell, Castrol, Shell, and Pennzoil.

In addition to running Technical Chemical, Howard and Sherry spearheaded renovation of Cleburne's historic Liberty Hotel and Wright Plaza and contributed heavily to the success of Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Cleburne, Hill College, and Plaza Theatre Company, in addition to numerous other philanthropic undertakings.

The Dudleys began supporting Texas Health in 2001, and became members of the Hawthorne Society. They were loyal donors to the Texas Health Cleburne Black and White Gala and contributed generously to the renovations of the Texas Health Cleburne emergency department and surgical suites.

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# In Memoriam

## Lonnie K. Ledbetter, Jr.



Lonnie K. Ledbetter, Jr., passed away on April 24, 2025, in Fort Worth, Texas, at the age of 83. He was born in Dallas in 1942, and served in the Navy during the Vietnam Conflict. In 1979, he married Sandra Lee, who predeceased him in 2023.

After exiting the service, Lonnie started what would become State National Insurance Company. He brought on his two brothers, Terry and Garry Ledbetter, and grew the company over the next 40 years, ultimately selling it in a landmark deal with Markel, Inc. in 2017.

Lonnie had a passion for adventure, including piloting his own planes and helicopters, scuba diving, black diamond snow skiing, and motorcycle trips to Sturgis. He enjoyed fast cars and even faster boats. As of late, he was enjoying a more laid-back time with his second wife Tawni aboard their yacht, "Kashmir." An active horse owner, his Iron Horse Appaloosa Ranch won numerous awards and recognition from its home in Granbury, Texas.

The Ledbetters became members of the Hawthorne Society through their thoughtful gift to the Cancer Resource Patient Assistance Program at Texas Health Dallas.

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# In Memoriam

## James N. Muns



James N. Muns passed away on March 6, 2025, at the age of 93. Born in Sweetwater, Texas, James graduated from Sweetwater High School and then attended Abilene Christian University. There he earned a degree in Business Administration with minors in Psychology and Christian Education. It was there that he met and married Betty Bell in 1952.

In 1953, James began his career with Wyatt Food Stores, where he played a crucial role in the company's growth, leading to his tenure as President from 1978 to 1988. In 1988, he sold the company and transitioned into a new venture as Owner and CEO of Muns Enterprises, L.P., a venture capital and investment firm specializing in real estate and related projects.

James's impact extended far beyond the boardroom. After serving on the Plano City Council from 1981 to 1987, he was elected Mayor in 1992, a position he held until 1996. He also was Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano.

James and Betty started supporting Texas Health in 1990, and contributed to the success of many projects at Texas Health Plano. As members of the Hawthorne Society, their most notable gifts were to the Cancer Support Community at Texas Health Plano and other funds that allowed their philanthropy to assist where it was needed most.

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# In Memoriam

## Helen Payton



Helen Irene Beseda Payton of Euless, Texas, passed away peacefully on June 6, 2025, at the age of 93. Helen married Jimmy Payton in 1950, and they made their home in Euless where they were deeply rooted and joyfully participated in building their community.

Over their 74-year marriage, Helen's interests revolved around her home and family. She was an avid gardener and a member of the Euless Garden Club. She enjoyed both flower gardening and growing a vegetable garden that not only graced her family's table, but also provided bountiful gifts to their friends and neighbors.

Helen devoted countless hours to their church community at First United Methodist Church of Euless. Her effortless charm and humble demeanor served her well as First Lady of the Texas Automobile Dealers Association and the National Automobile Dealers Association, though she would have much preferred to remain outside the spotlight. In later years she invested her time and talent in the Euless Historical Preservation Committee.

Helen and Jimmy began supporting Texas Health Resources in 1992 and made gifts that supported a number of projects at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Hurst-Euless-Bedford. Among them are the lobby renovation, ICU expansion, and the patient tower fund. They were members of the Hawthorne and Farrington-Thompson Societies.

2025

# In Memoriam

## Jimmy Payton



Jimmy Charles Payton of Euless, Texas, passed away peacefully on December 10, 2025, at the age of 95. He was born on April 18, 1930, in Venus, Texas. In 1950, just as Jimmy was developing his fledgling love of the automobile industry, he met and married his true lifelong love, Helen Beseda.

Jimmy's ancestors came to Euless from Tennessee by covered wagon in the 1860s and settled there, helping to establish the First United Methodist Church of Euless (now Ash Lane United Methodist) where Jimmy was an active member for his entire life. At the age of 25 he was elected Mayor of Euless, followed by a stint as Municipal Judge.

In a growing Euless, Jimmy helped charter the First National Bank of Euless and served as its chairman for over two decades. He partnered in banking, real estate, and insurance ventures with other community leaders, but his most defining endeavor came in 1966 when he and partner R. Leon Wright founded Payton-Wright Ford in nearby Grapevine, Texas.

Jimmy was a long-time volunteer leader at Texas Health and served on the boards of the Texas Health Harris Methodist Foundation, the Harris Methodist Health System, Texas Health Resources, and Texas Health HEB.

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# In Memoriam

## Janet Colleen Stewart



Janet Colleen Stewart, 91, a retired teacher, died September 24, 2025, in Southlake, Texas. Colleen was born November 20, 1934, in Tyler, Texas, and graduated from high school in Colorado City, Texas, where she was very active in the music program. She then moved with her family to Snyder, Texas, where she lived until attending Texas Christian University (TCU) on a music scholarship, majoring in Speech.

Colleen was the head majorette at TCU and graduated in 1956. She loved her Horned Frogs her entire life as well as the many friends she made there. After graduating from TCU, she taught middle school speech and English in the Fort Worth Independent School District, where she met her husband, James H. Stewart, Jr., in 1957. They married on November 26, 1958, and attended the TCU vs. SMU game at the Cotton Bowl for their honeymoon.

Colleen was active in the Etta Newby Woman's Club of Fort Worth, Women of Rotary, served as President of the Friends of the TCU Library Board, and was the founding First Lady of University of Texas at Tyler.

Colleen and Jim have supported Texas Health since 1993, and were major donors to Texas Health Fort Worth's Harris Heart Center and Palliative Care Endowment Fund. The Stewarts are members of the Hawthorne and Farrington-Thompson Societies.