



William Joseph D. "Joe" Norton

July 24, 1936 - January 8, 2020

A celebration of life for William Joseph Davis "Joe" Norton, 83, of Tyler will be held on Thursday, January 16, 2020 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Willow Brook Country Club in Tyler. There will be a private family service at Christ Episcopal Church of Tyler.

Joe passed away Wednesday, January 8, 2020 in Tyler. He was born July 24, 1936 in Terrell to Thomas Edward Norton and Helen Claire Davis Norton. Joe graduated from Terrell High School and attended East Texas State University where he played football. After college, he served in the U.S. Army where he was stationed in Japan. Joe owned Norton Equipment Co. and was a general partner in Norton Leasing Ltd., LLP. He served as president and was a principal shareholder of Norton Companies of Texas, Inc. for 25 years, until 1989. He also owned W.D. Norton, Inc., doing business as Overhead Door of Tyler/Longview/Mt. Pleasant, for 16 years, until 2005. Joe is past vice chairman of the Board of Regents, East Texas State University and served as vice president of development on the Board of Trustees for All Saints Episcopal School of Tyler. Joe was vice chairman of Southside Bancshares, Inc. Board of Directors from May 2014 to December 2014 and was elected chairman of Southside Bancshares, Inc. in January 2015 until his retirement in 2018. He served on the Board of Directors of Southside Bancshares, Inc. since 1988 and Southside Bank since 1977. Joe served as President of the Tyler Rose Festival and Willow Brook Country Club. Joe was also very active in his church. Joe was an avid sportsman and he loved to travel. He loved to fly and would pilot his own plane. Flying was his passion. He could relax and not think of anything, but flying. Joe also loved his 4 legged friends.

Joe was preceded in death by his mother, father, brother, sister and daughter. He is survived by his loving family including his wife of 55 years, Jan; brother Tom and wife Linda; daughters Day Norton and Debbie Norton; granddaughter Meredith Norton Douglas and husband Tyler; grandson William (Drew) Jackson; as well as many other loving family, friends and employees.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Hospice of East Texas Foundation, 4111

University Blvd., Tyler, TX 75701; Christ Episcopal Church, 118 S Bois d'Arc, Tyler, TX 75702; and All Saints Episcopal School, 2695 S SW Loop 323, Tyler, TX 75701.

Joe was loved by all and will be greatly missed.

Events

JAN **Celebration of Life** 04:00PM - 06:00PM

16

Willow Brook Country Club

3205 W. Erwin, Tyler, TX, US, 75702

Comments



“ I have so many memories of my granddaddy's laugh and sense of humor. He was always hearing, "Oh Joe or Oh daddy!" And he'd sit in his recliner with a half grin and just chuckle.

He was one of the smartest men that I knew, something I am very grateful to hear folks tell me that I have been passed those genes. If anyone is as witty and inventive as Joe Norton, I strive for it to be me.

His love for music was something that kept me interested in different artist and genres. Sitting listening to Jazz, a little rock and roll, some old country, and dancing reggae in diapers are some of the reasons I have such a broad Spotify these days. Most of all I appreciated his work ethic. He never stopped striving to better his community. Today at the service so many people commended him for his service to the community, people all over Texas know Joe Norton. To be half the business minded human that he was would be an achievement. I never knew him to stop working his mind, wether with quick remarks, an unstoppable new business idea, or a way to help his community in some way.

I love and respect the man and Grand father that was Joe Norton.



Meredith Douglas - January 17 at 01:32 AM



“ I called him "Mr. Joe ... you are one of the good guys". He was a true gentleman, a great overseer, a family man, a Board Member at All Saints, and a successful business man. I asked Mr. Joe if the next generation of young men would become the "good guys" ... he looked at me and chuckled. He had a little twinkle in his eyes.

I am ever so lucky to have known "Mr. Joe". My heart goes out to his lovely family. He will be missed. His legacy will carry on!

With great respect,
Maureen McCullough
Retired from All Saints Episcopal School 2015



Maureen McCullough - January 16 at 02:03 PM



“ Thank you, as his granddaughter I appreciate your condolence. And the memory.

Meredith - January 17 at 01:21 AM



“ Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of William Joseph D. "Joe" Norton.



January 13 at 08:13 PM