



Billy Hibbs,

September 25, 1938 - November 5, 2005

Billy Earl Hibbs, 67, passed away in his home on November 5th, in his sleep, after a courageous eight-year battle with Alzheimer's disease. Mr. Hibbs requested that his body be used to further Alzheimer's research. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend who will always be remembered for his kind heart, warm spirit, and generous nature. Mr. Hibbs was born on September 25, 1938 in Quitman, Texas to Garlin Earl and Alma Brown Hibbs. After graduating from Quitman High School, he married his high school sweetheart, Eugenia Stroud of Mineola, in 1957 and had one child, Billy Earl Hibbs, Jr. An insurance entrepreneur, Hibbs grew a small, three-person insurance agency into Heartland Security Ins. Group, one of the largest insurance holding companies in the southwest. Operating entities include the retail insurance agency known as Hibbs-Hallmark & Co., two third-party administrators, Claims Administrative Services and CCSI, a premium finance co., Premium Convenience Services, a wholesale broker and underwriter known as Patriot National Underwriters, and Old Glory Ins. Co. which was the first property casualty insurance company domiciled in Tyler. Heartland entities presently pay the claims for almost half the school districts in Texas. Heartland is also one of the nation's largest providers of claims services to the federal government, and handles claims for non-military personnel injured in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as Coast Guard, Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine bases located worldwide. Billy Hibbs loved his work and the people who made his companies a success. He was very

thankful to have been associated with so many outstanding insurance professionals during his 45-year career. In 1981, the Texas Legislature recognized Hibbs for his performance in handling the John Tyler High School fire loss. In 1990, he led the passage of a bond proposal for upgrades to the City of Tyler's infrastructure. As President of the East Texas Symphony Assoc., Mr. Hibbs worked to relocate performances to the Cowan Center at U.T. Tyler. As President of the Tyler Civic Theatre, he oversaw construction of the Braithwaite Theatre, and the opening of the Rogers Children's Theatre. He also served as President of the Tyler Rotary Club where he was a Paul Harris Fellow, and the Centurions of Tyler. He was a member of the Henry Bell Masonic Lodge, and a founding board member of the Better Business Bureau of Central East Texas. He was active with the Independent Insurance Agents at the local, state, and national levels. He served as a board member for Leadership Tyler, the T.I.S.D. Foundation, and the Tyler Chamber of Commerce and was a member of the Order of The Rose. He was a member of the Pairs and Parents Sunday School class, an usher, and past trustee of Marvin U.M.C. In 2004, Junior Achievement inducted Mr. Hibbs into its "Business Hall of Fame". Also in 2004, the University of Texas at Tyler made him a member of the honor business fraternity, Beta Gamma Sigma. In 2005, Hibbs-Hallmark & Co. was honored with the Better Business Bureau's "Torch Award" for providing exemplary marketplace ethics over the years. Most recently, the Tyler Rotary Club honored Hibbs by naming all present and future \$1000 donors to the foundation as "Billy Hibbs Fellows". Mr. Hibbs found great joy in sharing his many blessings with those in need through the Hibbs Family Foundation, which has helped many non-profits and individuals worldwide. He was preceded in death by his parents and an older brother, James. Survivors include his loving wife of 48 years, Eugenia "Jeannie" Hibbs, his son Billy E. Hibbs, Jr. and daughter-in-law Tisa Weiss Hibbs; two grandchildren, Stratton Weiss Hibbs and London Elizabeth Hibbs; two sisters Dorma Shields and Betty Cassels of Quitman; as well as many cousins, nieces, nephews, and in-laws. Mr. Hibbs was lovingly cared for in his home by

his wife, and trusted caregivers Shirley Jones, Tonya Miller, Pamela Wood, Verdell Ellison, Latoia Smith, and Maria Molina. A private family burial will be held Tuesday under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home. A "Celebration Of His Life" and reception following will be held 3:00 P.M. Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2005 at Marvin U.M.C. Honorary pallbearers are the Board of Directors and Executives of Heartland Security Ins. Group. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to: The Alzheimer's Alliance of N.E. Texas, 3613 S. Broadway Ave., Tyler, Texas 75701 Marvin U.M.C., 300 W. Elm St., Tyler, Texas 75701, Boy Scout East Texas Area Council Capital Campaign, 1331 E. Fifth St., Tyler, Texas 75701, Boys and Girls Club of Tyler, 325 S. Broadway, Tyler, Texas 75702, Tyler Rotary Foundation, P. O. Drawer 929, Tyler, Texas 75710, Junior Achievement of the Greater Tyler Area, 2737 S. Broadway Ave., Tyler, Texas 75701 or the charity of your choice.

Tribute Wall

KP

“ Even though I have had time to prepare for this moment, it is still so hard to let go of someone you love and respect. Mr. Hibbs entered my life 16 years ago, and his touch has had an impact on who I've become, without his presence I feel lost. Even though Mr. Hibbs has not been in the office daily, his high standards and ethical values drive my decisions; I feel his presence daily. I will miss Mr. Hibbs every day, but I draw comfort in the gifts he left behind. He left a strong, stable company that will continue to grow based upon his dream. He left a loving family and passed to his son Billy Hibbs, Jr, the same Christian values and sense of caring that were such an essential part of Mr. Hibbs. He left all of us, his family of employees, with a sense of belonging and goals to give our best to our family, our work and to our community.

To Mrs.Hibbs, Billy Jr, Tisa, Straton, and London I mourn your loss but celebrate his legacy as it lives on reflected in the lives of all he touched.

Karlista Patterson - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ *To the Hibbs Family:
We are truly sorry for your loss. You all will be in our thoughts and prayers in the days ahead.*

November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ *To the Hibbs Family:*

I was very saddened to learn of the death of Billy, Sr. Betty and I were out of town at the time of his death and read about it in the newspaper.

I count it as a very distinct pleasure to have worked with Billy, Sr. in the Rotary Club, Texas Association of Business, and other organizations. He was always one of the people I held in very high regard. Billy always had a smile for me, even when he was ill and still coming to Rotary meetings.

Betty & I would like to thank the Hibbs family for the contributions Billy made to Tyler and the surrounding community.

David Couch

David & Betty Couch - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ *My heart & soul to you, Jeannie, and the rest of the family. In July, 1997, I traveled to S.V. for the 1st time. Robert Gee flew. John & Joseph's friends aboard also. We landed in S.V., and for all I know, it could have been East Egypt. A man walked up to me, asked, Your name "Fry?" I responded "yes sir." And up the trail to S.V. we went, him filling me in on the lay of the land, and what was going on. Pretty neat. And after the flight back, I took you guys home, us & all this "stuff" crammed in my small car. My thoughts are with you, Bobby F.*

Bobby Fry - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *The sadness for your loss extends all the way to the West Coast. I will always cherish my memories of Billy's friendship.*

Love,

John Cones

Loas Angeles, California

John Cones - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ *Billy Earl,*

Good bye my friend. It was an honor to have known you. You were a man among men. In the 25 years since we met - I've never known a better man.

I'm very sorry that I couldn't make myself come by in the last couple of years. The last time I saw you we both knew something was very wrong. There were tears in both of our hearts. I just wanted to remember you that way. Hope your family understands. I knew you would. You always understood me in a way that few others have. Thank you.

I cried today. There have been very few people in my life worth crying for. You were one of them. Rest in peace, my friend.

Mike Hamschin - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *We're very sorry, our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Jean (Creech) Maclin - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

GL

“ Dear Hibbs Family:

Wanted to express our sorrow in the passing of your Dad and let you know our thoughts are with you today.

Billy Sr. was among the circle of men that influenced my life from a young age as my own father had died when I was young. When Billy Jr and I would go on double dates, his Dad was the best possible driver to have as a chauffeur.

After the date was over, he would pull to the girls house, turn off the car and give us the "correct" amount of time to say good night! Hey, it was a long walk to their front doors. Then, the Hibbs got a new pool table and Billy and I practiced for weeks until we thought we were pretty good. Billy Jr. challenged his Dad to a game and he promptly "ran" the table on us, dropped the cue and walked out the door saying "Keep Practicing!"

I'm glad I knew him growing up in Tyler.

All our Love to you and your Mom

Jenny, Garry, Collin and Kellie Lawler

Garry and Jenny Lawler - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ *Jeanie,*

Jerry and I are holding you and your family in hearts and prayers in your loss of Billy. Our Jeff has enjoyed his friendship through Scouts with Billy, Jr.

We have fond memories of Tyler and our acquaintance with your family.

Jerre

Jerre and Jerry Jouett - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ *We lost a good one. He left so many good things as a heritage. He will be sorely missed.*

Peggy & Arliss Mallory - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ *Billy you will be missed greatly by a lot of people. Our fellowship has taught me so much about life, business and family. I am fortunate to have met you at a young age. You took me under your wing and were a great mentor. Because of you I am a better man. You demonstrated great character and taught us how to enjoyed life. Thanks for taking me in. I feel comfort knowing your in heaven now enjoying devinity. You will always be with me, in my heart.*

We great respect and love

Robert

Robert Monaghan - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ My thoughts and prayers are with each of you during this most difficult time. When I came to work for Hibbs-Hallmark & Company in September of 1991, though I respected Mr. Hibbs, Sr. as my employer, I knew nothing really about the individual character, the quality of the man, the back bone of the company, Mr. Hibbs, Sr. Since that time I had the great pleasure of working with him and seeing what a fine man he genuinely was, not only as an employer but simply as an individual. Over the years as I have listened, watched and seen how Mr. Hibbs, Sr. so freely loved, cared and gave of himself, the great admiration, love and respect for him grew daily. When I think about life, I think about all the blessings that have been bestowed upon me, and, I say with pride and with a sincere heart that I feel so richly blessed and honored to have known Mr. Hibbs, Sr. I am so proud to be a part of his family, the Hibbs-Hallmark & Company family. May God give each of you comfort throughout the days, the months, and the years ahead as you remember and cherish the memories of Mr. Hibbs, Sr..

Michele Hall - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. Please do not hesitate to call on us if we can be of service.

Gillian and James Sheridan - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ Mr. Hibbs in his young life accomplished so many great things for his fellow man. In giving back to others...his employees and his beloved community, his legacy will live on. My condolences to Mrs. Hibbs, Billy Jr., Tisa and the beloved grandchildren. Trusting Jesus to fill you with peace, give you rest, and hold you close to his heart in your time of sorrow.

Ruby Havins - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time. He will be missed.*

Celeste Watts - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ *I'm so grateful to have worked with Billy at the theatre. He hosted the Board for years unselfishly. And, actually, "unselfish" described him. Any time I called him during my Presidency, he answered the phone personally and was ready to help. He had a good sense of vision for the theatre and always spoke as "we can do this". I look at the Waterford clock he gave me--a gift from his heart in appreciation. It reminds me of a wonderful time in my volunteer career. Again, a trait of his: "he took action". Furthermore, "he recognized the efforts of others". Billy built an insurance empire, but he never acted as the "emporor". And I emphasize that Jeannie, you shared his committments, supporting him, opening your home, and being present. Fondly, Jan Payne.*

Jan Payne - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ *What do you do when you lose your hero and your mentor? How do you go on without the man you love dearly?*

You do it one day at a time with God's help. You cherish everything that he has taught you and all that he believed in. You make sure that those values never die by teaching them to your co-workers and your family.

Thank you Mr. Hibbs for demanding perfection, insisting that all decisions be ethical in nature, and for challenging us all to become the best in all things!

You will forever be an inspiration to us all!

Brenda Thomas - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *Words cannot express the deep sense of loss I feel today. Mr. Hibbs was a very special person to me, and he will long be remembered for his kindness, generosity and the example he set for all of us. It has been difficult to watch him slip away over the last several months, but we can all now rejoice in the fact the he has gone home to the Lord and is no longer in pain. I will miss his smiling face at the office and treasure the ten years' worth of wonderful memories I have. I will treasure the memory of our last visit together a couple of months ago at his home. Though he did not know my name that day, I know he was happy to see me.*

To Mrs. Hibbs, Billy, Tisa, Stratton and London...please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. I will miss Mr. Hibbs very much.

Jennifer Hancock - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

EG

“ Billy was my special friend, and I have many fond memories of the times we shared together on the golf course, in your new offices, and other events around town. We had some great times on the golf course, and that is where we spent most of our together time. I have missed being in Tyler and sharing with you during these past five years. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jeannie, Billy Jr. and all of the family. You have a rich heritage to remember. May God's peace and strength fill you with hope and love.

Earl Gibbs - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ Mr Billy Hibbs was a guiding light for East Texas and his presence will be sorely missed by all. He was a man of impeccable character, and we pray for his family in this difficult time of need.

November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Mr. Hibbs was a wonderful man & he will be missed dearly. His company is a wonderful place to work & they truly care about their employees. God bless the Hibbs family & help them through this difficult time in the loss of there loved one. Billy Hibbs was a truly wonderful man. You will truly be missed.

Brandy Brown - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ Thank you, Mr. Hibbs. Thank you for creating a wonderful company. Thank you for your many years of service and for guiding those who worked for you in an ethical and spiritual manner.

In today's world of insurance, too often we are looked at as part of an industry that lacks ethics and conviction. Mr. Hibbs, I hope you saw that the company you created is just the opposite. There's not a person in your company that has not given all they have for a company they believe in. A company YOU made possible. You contributed so much and your work will live on. Your spirit will live on. Your generous compassion for your community and your endless love for your family will live on. You have left a legacy, sir....and it will always live on.

Mr. Hibbs Jr. has done and will do you proud, sir. He has your faith in Jesus Christ and conveys that in every piece of work he does and every new business contact he meets.

Thank you, Mr. Hibbs. You will not be forgotten.

Anonymous - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Billy,

Tell your mom how sorry I am to hear about your father this afternoon from Jack Thompson.

Your Dad was the best friend I ever had, always sent wonderful reference letters to potential employers when I was on the road for over 10 years taking Penny to different hospitals and always needing a good word to get work wherever we were sent next by her doctors. 36 moves in all from Texas to California.

Your Dad saw to it that anytime I asked for his help, he was there for us.

We had many great times together and great laughs, one of the best was the time we were on our way to Longview and I told him I had figured out what Rod Covington was.

Your Dad amused at my statement said, "Well, alright John I am waiting for you to finish it," after some time pondering what I had said.....then laughing I said, "Rod's confused, he thinks he's a doctor, walks like one, talks like one, acts like one, but what he still hasn't figured out yet is that he just an insurance man!".

Your Dad really had a good laugh and told me you know he does act like a doctor, we had a great trip.....he was the best, you are just like him.

Tell your Mom Penny loves her for coming to see her in the hospital when she was in Dallas and bringing all the wonderful presents. We love you guys. I know Billy is in a great place and in peace.

Call me sometime and we can tear down a Boat House together!

Our best to you always. John & Penny Hunsucker

John Hunsucker - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ I was very saddened to read about the passing of Mr. Hibbs. I had painted for Mr. Hibbs off and on for fifteen years or longer. One time while painting office space, Mr. Hibbs had a selection of used furniture he wanted to sell. I had needed a desk chair for my office, Mr. Hibbs told me to find one I like and just take it. I have had this chair now for at least nine years, it's worn and torn now, but I will probably never get rid of it. I often think about Mr. Hibbs and his great character, when I use the chair. I have a great amount of respect and admiration for Mr. Hibbs. He has influenced me in my work as well as in life. May GOD bless and watch over his family.

Ron Koziol - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ Our deepest sympathies are with your family at this time. Billy was a wonderful person and we will miss him greatly.

The family of Audrey Brown - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ Prayers and sincerest sympathies to the Hibbs Family.
Through his Creator's infinite love and mercy, may Mr. Hibbs rest in the peace of the Lord. Amen

Ed Santos - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ I feel happy and sad today. Happy that Mr. Hibbs is in heaven, no longer sick and that he is back to being healthy and at God's side. I feel sad for Jeannie, Billy Jr, Tisa, Stratton and London and his work family that he has left behind. I have worked for Hibbs Hallmark for 20 years and it has been a true blessing. His insight has benefited so many of us as employees and so many for Tyler. We have lost our backbone but not his legacy and all he put into place. God Bless his family and us as employees to get through this time as we grieve for a wonderful man.

Margaret Waller - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ What a sad time for all of us in this community. Billy Hibbs had such a positive impact on this place we call home. It is a great loss for us but more importantly a great loss for the family that he loved so much. Please know you will be in my thoughts and prayers in the coming days and weeks. If there is anything I can do to help please let me know.
God Bless.

Bill Crowe - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

BN

“ *Passion.* That's the word that comes to mind when I think of Billy Earl Hibbs. He was a man with a zest for living; a zeal for embracing the potentials of life and of the people around him. Spend time with Billy and you somehow became energized from the conversation. He was a proud man, but very humble. In his all-too-short lifetime, he created a wide swathe of achievements and legacy that no doubt will live on in the lives of Jeannie, Billy, Jr., Stratton and London. For the rest of us, Billy will remain in our thoughts, sorely missed, but a shining example of caring, dedication and love...the passion he showed us all.

Bob Neill - November 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM