



George Hamm

June 26, 1931 - October 10, 2010

Dr. George F. Hamm, President Emeritus of The University of Texas at Tyler, died Sunday. Hamm, 79, served as president of the university from 1981 to 1998, leading it through an era of dynamic expansion and broadening its commitment to intellectual development, academic excellence and community service. A Requiem Mass is scheduled for Thursday, October 14, 2010 at 11:00 AM at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Tyler with Monsignor Joe Strickland, Father Gus Tharappel, and Father Anthony McLaughlin officiating. Burial will follow at Cathedral in the Pines Cemetery under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home. Visitation is scheduled for Wednesday, October 13, 2010 from 6:00-7:00 PM at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway, in Tyler. A rosary will follow the visitation at 7:00 PM at the funeral home with Father Anthony McLaughlin presiding. Hamm's death followed a lengthy illness. He was born June 26, 1931 in Rapid City, South Dakota, son of Michael and Mae (Howard) Hamm. Hamm was a devoted member of Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Tyler.

In honor of his contributions to the development of UT Tyler, the UT System Board of Regents conferred on him the title of President Emeritus in 2003, stating: "One of Dr. Hamm's most significant accomplishments was his leadership in working with the legislature and other community leaders in elevating UT Tyler to four-year status in 1997." When he announced plans for retirement, Hamm described his years at UT Tyler "as the best and happiest years of my professional life," and stated, "With each succeeding

year, Janie and I have accumulated greater numbers of friends and more enduring relations. The university has grown significantly in stature because of its ever increasing numbers of generous benefactors.” Hamm was responsible for raising private gifts to supplement university funds for construction of the R. Don Cowan Center Fine and Performing Arts Center at UT Tyler. He established the university’s Distinguished Lecture Series, which has featured such speakers as Henry Kissinger, Coretta Scott King and William F. Buckley. During his presidency, Hamm secured approval for establishment of the college of engineering, the first at a state university in East Texas. He worked to create UT Tyler’s campuses in Longview and Palestine. New degree programs included master’s degrees in nursing, history, mathematics, biology and political science. His commitment to building and retaining faculty excellence brought scholars from leading universities around the nation to UT Tyler. Hamm’s leadership also led to construction of UT Tyler’s first on-campus student housing, the University Pines complex. The complex was one of the first in Texas to be built entirely with private funds. In recognition of his commitment to academic excellence, friends of the university established the \$500,000 George F. Hamm Endowed Chair in Arts and Humanities to advance awareness of ethical principles, social responsibilities, appreciation of the arts, and a respect for the dignity and uniquenesses of others. In addition, Hamm created numerous endowed presidential scholarships during his presidency. One of Hamm’s ongoing priorities was expanding global educational opportunities and pursuing international relationships for the city of Tyler and the university. He cultivated exchange programs with universities in France, Japan, Germany, Poland and Mexico. The Tyler Sister Cities Program began in 1982 in large part because of his leadership and energy. Tyler’s current sister city relationships established with his support and encouragement include Yachiyo City, Japan and Jelenia Gora, Poland. He established the Eisenhower International Golf Classic in 1987 to benefit international scholarship programs. This event, which was continued for 13 years, brought to East Texas such stars as Phil

Mickelson, Greg Norman, Payne Stewart, Fred Couples, Annika Sorenstam and Chi Chi Rodriguez. At the national and international level, Dr. Hamm served for many years on the board of directors of Sister Cities International. At the time of his death he was a member of the board of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation. Hamm was a graduate of South Dakota State University, where he attended on a football scholarship. He served in Uijeongbu as an officer in the U.S. Army 32nd Infantry Regiment during the Korean War. After the war he earned a doctorate in experimental psychology from the University of Wyoming. His career in higher education administration and teaching began in 1962 when he was named dean of students at Arizona State University. He went on to become vice president of student affairs, the position he held when he was named president of UT Tyler. Arizona State honored Hamm in 1986 with its University Centennial Medallion as a "Man Ahead of His Times", for providing equal educational opportunities for minorities." U.S. Rep. Ralph Hall sponsored a congressional resolution commending Hamm in 1998 for his "unmatched leadership and vision to the university." The resolution stated, "As president of UT Tyler, Dr. Hamm dedicated his intellect, talents and energy to build a first-rate educational institution in East Texas. His goals were for many years elusive dreams, but thanks to his vision, perseverance and leadership, these dreams have become reality." Locally, Hamm served on the boards of numerous organizations including the Tyler Economic Development Council, Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Greater Tyler and St. Edward's University in Austin. Texas College awarded him an honorary doctorate of humane letters in 1997 for his enduring efforts with the Texas College/United Negro College Fund. He was preceded in death by two sons, Robert Joseph Hamm and Daniel George Hamm; by brothers John, Joseph, Philip, William, Michael and James; and, by sisters Margaret, Mary and Ann. Dr. Hamm is survived by his wife, Janie, and children, Greg Hamm and wife, Mirielle, of Virginia and Jean Marie Glass of Tyler, and six grandchildren, Monique, Madeleine, Theresa and Catherine Hamm; and Daniel and Sarah

Glass; as well as several nieces and nephews. Pallbearers will be Robert McConnel, Richard Neuheisel, John Ryan, Ken Findley, Leonard Barbarisi, Don Leim, Mark Kerrigan and Bob Buford. Memorials in honor of Dr. George F. Hamm may be made to the Tyler Catholic School Foundation, 5528 Old Bullard Rd., Tyler, Texas 75703 or the University of Texas at Tyler Scholarship Fund, Office of University Advancement, 3900 University Blvd., Tyler, Texas 75799.

Tribute Wall

DS

“*Janie and Jean Marie, please accept my heartfelt condolences on Dr. Hamm's passing. Tyler has lost one of it's greatest leaders and a true visionary, second to none. George was a man I admired and respected and I cherish the friendship and memories we shared. I remember the first Sister Cities trip I had the pleasure of leading with you and George to Metz, France. It was history in the making for Tyler and Sister Cities International. I also fondly remember George telling me of his vision for a golf pro am for Tyler. Little did I realize the significance that vision would have for Tyler and the next 13 years with the birth of the Eisenhower International Golf Classic. I am deeply saddened by his passing and the Tyler/East Texas Region has lost one of it's finest! God Bless You and Your family during this difficult time. Significant prayer is being offered your way.*

Dan Shieldes - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

ET

“ *Réquiem aeternam dona ei, Dómine, et lux perpétua lúceat ei.
Offeréntes eam in conspéctu Altissimi.*

Dear Ms. Janie and HAMM Family, please accept my sincere sympathies and our oneness in prayers for FAITH, HOPE and LOVE.

Dr. George Hamm was a devout Catholic who inspires me to continue observing traditional expressions of prayer. His humility in worship of God and devotion to the Blessed Mother was quietly manifest. And your family, always by his side in our earthly pilgrimage.

He visited and engaged me in colorful conversation as spontaneously as he did with heads of states, noble statesmen and princesses or CEO's. His honorable character was all about respect and honesty of an open mind and heart.

God's timing is perfect even as we will miss Dr. George.

Among other accolades, I hope that UTT will name the Distinguish Lecture Series in his honor.

Rest in God's Peace, GFH.

*In the Name of the +Father, and of the +Son and of the +Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

ed santos (Filipino-Americans : Tyler-East TX) - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the Hamm family.*

We will lift an Ave for the repose of Dr Hamm's soul, that he rest in Christ.

Steven and Trish Schloeder

Steven J Schloeder - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ We will miss your smile and your unending positive attitude. No matter how badly you were feeling, you always had a warm smile and a generous hug to offer a friend. You were truly an inspiration to so many of us. A brilliant leader with incredible vision. You have definitely left your mark on this world as I believe you will do the same in Heaven above. God Bless you, George. You will be greatly missed.

Love,
The Hubers

MARY HUBER - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ Dr. Hamm,
I am blessed to have known you. You brought a special light to the world. May you rest in peace.

Hamm Family,
My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Hold tight to memories for comfort and may the love of those around you help you through the days ahead.

Love,prayers,and blessings,
Kathy

Kathy Cook - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

PY

“ *Janie,
Oh how I wish I could be there to give you a big hug but am in Orlando at a business meeting until Thursday night.
As you know Dr. Hamm was quite the visionary as I learned from him and will never forget him flying me to Austin to the UT Board of Regents Meeting when I was the President of the Student Body at UT Tyler.
No matter where or when I saw you both, he always knew my name and had a big smile and would ask me how I was doing.
He will be greatly missed however his contributions to better education will live forever.
May God comfort you during this time and give you His peace.
Jeremiah 29:11
If you have time over the next few months, I would love to catch up with you.
Polly Yeager
903-530-0509*

Polly Yeager - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *Our heartfelt prayers to all of you during this time of great loss. Uncle George was a great father, family member and educator. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him. With his wit and charm, he brought great joy to all of us and was the backbone of the Hamm family, and anchored the greatest generation of Americans to whom we all owe so much. Rose and I take solace in being able to see him one last time back in June 2005 for his 75th birthday. Those memories will live forever in our hearts. We only wish we could have had more time to be with him and all of you. We love you all. Our sympathies are with you now and forever.*

John Hamm - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ Aunt Janie, Jean Marie & Greg,

We are so saddened by the death of Uncle George. He was truly a great man. Never did I see him that he was not smiling. He will truly be missed by all. My thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time.

*Love,
Susan (Boudreaux) Hooper & Family*

Susan Boudreaux Hooper - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

PP

“ As so many I am better having known Dr. Hamm. He brought humor, wisdom, and a knowing comment to most any conversation. His ability to mix knowledge and perspective with a light mood made him one of a kind.

My thoughts to the entire family during this time.

Great respect and love;

Pete Patterson & family

Pete T Patterson - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Dear Janie, Jean Marie, and family;

My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this time of sadness. What a wonderful man George Hamm was, larger than life. He always brightened my day whenever I saw him. I loved working on the Hole in One and the Eisenhower Golf Classic because of him. He was a great leader but also a great friend. He will be missed by all he touched over the years. I'm sorry I cannot be there to share these thoughts in person. Please know that my prayers are for God's peace to give you all great comfort during this time. Much love to you all.

Jerra Woldert-Lee - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ Greg, Mireille:

*Our prayers are with your family.
We thank God for your dad who raised Greg as the man he is today.
May this deed and many more justify to your dad's entrance to heaven for eternity where we will all meet with him soon, if God permits.*

Our Love, Marie-Ange and David

Marie-Ange & David Lejeune - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TD

“ *My condolences to you and your family, Greg. Your father certainly had a big impact on higher education in Texas.*

Thomas Dinneny - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DV

“ Dear Aunt Janie, Jean Marie, Greg & family, We are so sorry for the loss of Uncle George. He was a wonderful human being and an inspiration to all. He always made everyone feel welcome and special. Uncle George genuinely cared. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. George will remain in all our hearts forever. God bless. Love, Karla & Brent

Drs. Brent Sigler & Karla Vavold-Sigler - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ Janie, our deepest and warmest thoughts are with you, Jean Marie and Greg at this difficult time. We all bask in George's sterling accomplishments.

Lohnie & Mary Jo - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ Mrs. Hamm, Greg, and Jean Marie,

Our deepest sympathy to you all. Dr. Hamm was a true mentor and inspiration to us, as you all have been over the years, regardless of time and distance. Dr. Hamm inspired us with his Christian family leadership and community involvement, as well as with his educational and professional achievements. He was truly an amazing and gifted leader with a sense of sincerity that always made us feel both welcome in his home and inspired to make a difference in the world. We are grateful to him for having set an example of what it takes to lead a balanced and truly successful life in Christ.

You are all in our Prayers,

Love Rob and Virginia Anson

Rob and Virginia Anson - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Greg –

Andie and I are very saddened to learn of your father's passing. Although I have heard you speak of him many times, I had no idea what a great man he was. After reading his obituary, I can imagine how proud you and the family must have been of all he accomplished and the incredible influence he had on so many people in his life. He will truly be missed and remembered by many. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Mirielle and the girls in this very sad time.

- Brian and Andie Spencer

Brian and Andie Spencer - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

GV

“ Greg, Aaron and I are thinking of you and your family. I have heard you speak of your dad often. Now reading about his life, I can understand the abundant pride you have. I can also clearly see similarities between you and your dad. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this sad time. - Gabi
"Let us endeavor so to live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry." Mark Twain.

Gabrielle Koepfel and Aaron Velli - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AJ

“ I heard of your loss through Marie on Facebook. I send my condolences to you and pray God's comfort and encouragement for you at this time.

Anabeth (Sparks) James - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM