



## John E. Regan

June 20, 1925 - July 7, 2020

John Eugene Regan, 95, passed away on July 7, 2020 in Tyler. He is survived by his loving wife, Adele of Tyler; daughters, Susan Regan Donnenfield of Dallas, Shelley Katz (Sam) of San Antonio; brother-in-law, Selig Eidelberg of San Antonio; grandchildren, Regan Lynn Donnenfield, Noah Donnenfield (Emily), Jonah Donnenfield, Sarah Katz, Lauren Katz, and Capt. Gabriella Katz; and great-grandchild, Davis Wren Donnenfield.

John was born on June 20, 1925 to Fred and Lottie Regan. Raised in Houston, Texas he was an Eagle Scout, and after one year at Texas A&M University, he enlisted in the United States Army. John received the Bronze Star for his combat in Italy during World War II. After his service, he returned to Texas A&M University to finish his education. John married the love of his life, Adele Lippmann, on October 24, 1954 in Galveston. The following year, John and Adele welcomed their twin daughters to the world, Susan and Shelley Regan. This past October John and Adele celebrated their 65TH anniversary as soulmates surrounded by their dear friends and family. He took great pride in mentoring his grandchildren and watching them grow.

John began his entrepreneurial career by selling magazine subscriptions, making hot dogs at a local diner, as well as carrying luggage at the train station. He started his retail career with Foley's, before moving the family to Tyler to start his own business. In March 1958, John and Adele opened the

doors to their first retail store “Regan’s Smart Fashions” on the corner of W. Erwin Street and South Broadway Ave. in downtown Tyler. Adele worked by his side as they expanded “Regan’s Smart Fashions” opening 27 stores in all parts of East Texas and Arkansas.

John loved snow skiing with his wife and their friends in Colorado, hiking in Switzerland, and sailing on Lake Tyler. He lived his life as a true community leader. John was elected as councilmember to The Tyler City Council (1990-96) and as Mayor Pro Tem in 1995, President of Board of Smith County Appraisal District, President of the East Texas Symphony, Member of Order of the Rose, President of the Board of Congregation Beth El, President of People Attempting to Help (PATH) Board, President of Friends of the Arts at University of Texas Tyler. John also served on the Board of Directors of People’s National Bank, the Financial Board of Catholic Diocese of Tyler, Board of National and State Small Business Administration, The Tyler Half Cent Sales Tax Board, The Smith County Alcohol and Drug Abuse (SCADA) Board, and taught Fashion Merchandising at Tyler Junior College. John had a lifelong commitment to his family; as well as the Tyler community.

The Family would like to thank caregivers Carol Knight, Charlotte Green, Jennie Rollins, Leatrice Johnson, Shurunda Williams, and Stephanie Roberts.

Graveside services will be held on Friday, July 10, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at Rose Hill Cemetery in Tyler with Rabbi Neal Katz officiating under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Congregation Beth El Tyler, 1010 Charleston Dr., Tyler, TX 75703 ([www.jewishtyler.com](http://www.jewishtyler.com)); Children’s Village, 3659 FM 724, Tyler, TX 75704 ([www.childrensvillageoftexas.org](http://www.childrensvillageoftexas.org)); Alzheimer’s Alliance of Smith County, 211 Winchester Dr., Tyler, TX 75701 ([www.alzalliance.org](http://www.alzalliance.org)); or The Hospice of East Texas Foundation, 4111 University Blvd., Tyler,

TX 75701 ([www.hospiceofeasttexas.org](http://www.hospiceofeasttexas.org)).

Join us on Zoom in one of three ways:

Online (most common)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86265315585>

OR

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,86265315585# US (Houston)

OR

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 862 6531 5585

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

JUL 10. 10:00 AM (CT)

Rose Hill Cemetery  
Tyler, TX

# Tribute Wall

JS

“ To the Regan family: John was a friend and a mentor on all things "political" in Tyler. His support and guidance helped me do a better job lobbying for my client/employer, East Texas EMS. His kindness and friendship will always be with me. John G. Self

John G. Self - August 02, 2020 at 10:32 AM

JS

“ My sincere condolences to the Regan family. I knew John from his days on the city council, a radio interview I did with him, and my connection to Congregation Beth El. John was a true gentleman and a great community servant/leader who will be greatly missed.



John Sims - July 12, 2020 at 09:17 AM

MM

“ So glad I got to visit with John & Adele in Tyler several years ago. Always kind & gracious to me through all the years I knew him. An interesting life well-led & I hope there's good ski conditions up yonder. My sympathies to the family.

Mark R Meyer - July 11, 2020 at 07:14 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Noah Donnenfield - July 10, 2020 at 06:02 PM

JR

“ Condolences from my family to Adele and her daughters- we are so sorry to hear of John's passing. Warm regards from Judy, Naomi and Jeremy and families to a lovely family.

Judy Regensteiner - July 10, 2020 at 02:32 PM



“ Always remember John as he was so gracious & friendly, which is one of the reasons his store thrived and the other reason was Adele. She made them the almost PERFECT couple! Remember him at Fit Steps. Will be missed. Dave & Carolyn Halbrooks Bain

Carolyn Bain - July 10, 2020 at 11:17 AM

CE

“ Sorry to hear the news. He lived a long life-thinking of y'all.  
Cindy and Brian Eltis

ciny eltis - July 09, 2020 at 09:29 PM

SM

“ Susan, I am so sorry for your loss. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers.

Shari Markey

shari markey - July 09, 2020 at 08:32 PM

JZ

“ Dear Susan and Family,  
I'm so sorry to hear of the loss of your Father. May his memory be for a blessing.  
With love,  
Jeanne Zamutt

Jeanne Zamutt - July 09, 2020 at 08:27 PM

MH

“ *My deepest condolences to the family! Mary Hargett*

Mary Hargett - July 09, 2020 at 07:40 PM

SF

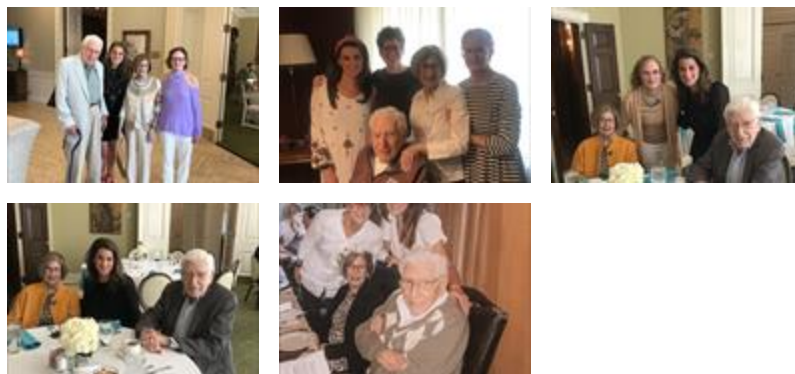
“ *My deepest condolences - I fondly remember the days our families spent together, and as a cherished member of the “minyán” of Temple Beth El.*

*I know we will all miss John’s smile, his sense of humor, and his total “menschlikeit.”*

Steve Fisch - July 09, 2020 at 05:24 PM



“ *20 files added to the album Memories Album*



Regan Donnerfield - July 09, 2020 at 01:19 PM



“ 16 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Regan Donnenfield** - July 09, 2020 at 01:15 PM

SB

“ I'm quite sure my parents, Keith and Zelda Hightower, were very glad to see John join them in heaven. He was one of my Dad's closest friends and my Mom considered Adele to be one of her closest friends. John was a great man who will be greatly missed by so many. I'm so sorry for the family's heartbreak. What a wonderful life he lived with so many accomplishments.

*Sarah Hightower Bryan*

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**Sarah Bryan** - July 09, 2020 at 12:35 PM

SW

“ Susan and Shelley: Sorry to read of your dad's passing.

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**Stanley Waghalter** - July 09, 2020 at 12:11 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall

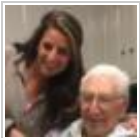


Regan Donnenfield - July 09, 2020 at 11:44 AM



*The best grandparents ever.* ❤️💛

Regan Donnenfield - July 10, 2020 at 10:09 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Regan Donnenfield - July 09, 2020 at 11:41 AM

SD

*Truly the best parents a person could be blessed with. Miss you so much Daddy.*

Susan Regan Donnenfield - July 09, 2020 at 03:55 PM

RK

*Susan, so sorry for your loss. Please extend my condolences to your family. Roz Kaplan*

Rosalind Kaplan - July 09, 2020 at 05:08 PM

LK

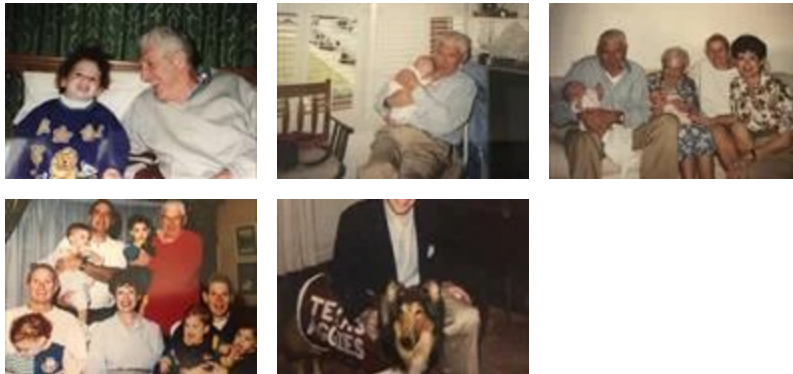
“ *Popi's smile would always light up the room.* ”



Lauren Katz - July 09, 2020 at 11:18 AM



“ *30 files added to the tribute wall* ”



Noah Donnenfield - July 08, 2020 at 08:02 PM



Regan Donnenfield - July 08, 2020 at 09:15 PM



*Love you Noah! Thank you for sharing such beautiful photos!!!*

Regan Donnenfield - July 08, 2020 at 09:15 PM

LK

*Thank you Noah! Love you!*

Lauren Katz - July 09, 2020 at 11:07 AM

GP

“ wonderful man..loved his dry sense of humor..and his great smile..and him helping me with life problems...”

gary peterson - July 08, 2020 at 05:57 PM

EC

“ John gave me my first job at Regan's in the mall. As an employer he was fair, kind and a Dry sense of humor that kept us on our toes. Fast forward over the years with 4 children and other milestones he had been genuinely interested in me and my family and was quick to offer an encouraging word. Prayers and love to all his Family !

Elizabeth Harvey Clyde

Elizabeth Clyde - July 08, 2020 at 11:06 AM

LG

It is hard to share all of the wonderful memories I have of John and Adele. He was bigger than life, laughed a lot, and was a kind man. I would go over to their home with my Mother and visit and thoroughly enjoyed being welcomed in their home. He gave me my first job wrapping presents in his downtown store. It was exciting and fun. My prayers and love are with his family. The memories in the photos are wonderful.  
Lauren Glass

lauren glass - July 09, 2020 at 09:23 PM

CR

“ Always a gentleman, always kind, always smiling. He was truly a great man with a great family. Many good wishes from all our family

Carolyn and Bill Ross - July 08, 2020 at 10:10 AM