



## Johnny Wright

May 30, 1911 - January 27, 2007

Memorial services for Johnny Wright, 95, Tyler, are scheduled for 2:00, Tuesday, January 30, at Stewart Family Funeral Home with Rev. Dr. David O. Dykes officiating. A private family graveside service will precede the memorial service with burial in Rose Hill Cemetery under direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home. Mr. Wright passed away Saturday, January 27, in Tyler.

Johnny Wright was born May 30, 1911 in Tyler to the late John M. and Ethel Hairston Wright. He graduated from Tyler High School and Tyler Commercial College desiring to live in the town and with the people he thought of as home. Johnny's first job before the age of ten was making crates at his father's box factory in Tyler. During his youth, he also sold soda pop at the baseball park in Tyler, worked as a soda jerk at a neighborhood drug store, and as a young adult sold ladies shoes. He was one of the original partners of Story-Wright, Inc. from 1935 to 1952. He served in the Navy during World War II. In 1953, Johnny Wright entered the life insurance business in Tyler representing Southland Life Insurance Company. His advertisement "Everybody Knows Johnny Wright Knows Life Insurance?" soon became well known in Tyler. He loved the Life Insurance business, and was a Company Leader of Southland Life Insurance Company sixteen out of the first thirty-two years he was with the company. Until recently he still enjoyed helping clients with insurance matters. He has served as president of the following organizations: Tyler Association of Life Underwriters, East Texas Estate Planning Council, Tyler Sales and Marketing Club, Tyler Junior Chamber of Commerce, Tyler Area

Chamber of Commerce, a 71 year member of the Tyler Rotary Club, Tyler United Way, Texas Leaders Roundtable and Tyler Mental Health Association. He also is a Life Member of the Million Dollar Round Table and was awarded the T. B. Butler Outstanding Citizens Award in 1950. He served many years with the Chamber of Commerce and was instrumental in helping bring new industries to Tyler. Always willing to help with any project that he thought would make Tyler a better city, he served as chairman of fund raising events, most importantly, events benefiting Harvey Hall, the University of Texas at Tyler, and the Carlton Hotel. He founded the Contact Club while he was President of the Chamber of Commerce in 1950, and the Johnny Wright Life Membership Award was named in his honor. He was also a member of Green Acres Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by his parents, first wife, Evelyn Wright, second wife, Margaret Ann Wright, brother, Robert Wright, and sisters, Clemmie Adams and Estelle Stripling. He is survived by his loving family including his sons, John Ronald Wright and wife Wanda of Tyler, Robert Stephen Wright of Tyler; daughter, Rosemary Beard and husband Harold of Tyler; grandchildren, Merrilee Elliff and husband Bill of Harlingen, Kurt Brown and wife Rhonda of Georgetown, and Lori Brown of Tyler; six great-grandchildren; nephew, John H. Wright and wife Annah of Tyler; nieces, Peggy Dunken and husband Bert of Willis, Dr. Kaye Stripling of Willis; special friend, Sara Lamberth Fink; former daughter-in-law, Carolyn Brennan and husband Jerry of Dallas; and step-son, John Richardson and wife Neela of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Honorary Pallbearers are the Majors Pharmacy Coffee Clutch, the Contact Club, Tyler Rotary Club, and Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce Board. The family will receive friends from 6:00 to 8:00 Monday evening at Stewart Family Funeral Home located on 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway in South Tyler. Memorials in honor of Mr. Wright may be made to Hospice of East Texas, 4111 University Blvd, Tyler, Texas 75707 or a charity of your choice. For more information or to express condolences, visit [www.stewartfamilyfuneral.com](http://www.stewartfamilyfuneral.com).



# Tribute Wall

JR

“ *Mr. Johnny Wright, my wonderful stepfather, was one of the greatest men I have known. What a privilege it has been to have him in our lives over these many years. I will so miss his strength of character, his advice, constant humor and genuine affection.*

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**John Richardson** - January 27, 2007 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ *For the last two years I have had the privilege of getting to know Mr. Wright. His life was full of adventure both at work and at home. Over the time I knew him, we got to be good friends. He was like an other grandpa to me in many ways. I am pleased that I had a chance to get to know him and can help carry him on through the memories he shared with me. My life and I'm sure many others were deeply touched by him. He will be greatly missed. My prayers and thoughts go to the family.*

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**Tammy Cole** - January 27, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *Rosemary, our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.*

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**Jack and Marsha Holliday** - January 27, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ *I was going to come tonight but my little girl is running fever. I was looking forward to seeing you, Lori-it's been way too long! I remember Sunday dinners at your Granddaddy's house and how we were constantly underfoot, driving your mom nuts. Just doing our job...My thoughts are with you guys. He was a great man. Lori, email me sometime!*

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**Melanie Malone Weaver** - January 27, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ *What an honor it has been to be counted as one of his Friends. He is dining with the King. He will be missed!*

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**Sheila Billingsley** - January 27, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ *Johnny was a lifelong friend and business role model to me. I will miss him.*

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**Mrs. H.C. Alfred** - January 27, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ *Rosemary,  
Although your heart is heavy with sorrow, we pray that you will be comforted to know how deeply everyone cares. Many East Texans have learned by your dad's example to never give up, to gaze at clouds and dream out loud, and to walk the path that's right!  
In Christian Sympathy and Hope,  
Camille and Dick Brown*

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**Camille and Dick Brown** - January 27, 2007 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ I actually worked a few months for Mr. Wright, but decided the insurance business was not for me. But, Mr. Wright, stayed in touch... calling to see how I was doing... checking on my family...and always trying to help me succeed. I'll miss those calls...because they were sincere and from someone who truly cared. He was truly a very special friend, Tommie W.

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**Tommie Williams** - January 27, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ Rosemary, I am so sorry to hear about your Dad's death exactly one year after losing my Mom. Growing up around your home was such fun. Your parents were so special and your Dad was a wonderful role model. My deepest sympathy to you and your family.

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**Sandy Young Durham** - January 27, 2007 at 12:00 AM

VH

“ Please accept our deepest sympathy. We are thinking of you.

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**Vicki and Dexter Hadjison** - January 27, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ I wish to extend my deepest sympathy.

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**Barbara Briley Sollock** - January 27, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ *To the family*

*My parents were Dub and Mildred Pool and your dad and mine worked together at Southland Life. My sister, Carole Ratliff, and I thought very highly of your parents as did Mother and Daddy. We send our thought and prayers to you. Johnny was a great insurance man and will be missed by his friends and clients.*

*Bless you*

*Janet Pool*

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**Janet Pool** - January 27, 2007 at 12:00 AM