



**JAMES HOWARD "JIM"
GIBBS**

A Memorial Service for Mr. James Howard "Jim" Gibbs of Crockett, Texas, were held Saturday, January 12, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Crockett. Jim passed away Tuesday morning, January 8, 2008, following a brief illness, at Trinity Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler, Texas.

Mr. Gibbs was born January 3, 1929, in Dover, Ohio, to Howard James and Berniece Ruth "Tot" Gibbs. At age 19, he moved to Seguin, Texas, where he worked at the local radio station and met his business partner-to-be, H.H. Callen, who had already applied for a broadcast station license. In 1949, Mr. Gibbs, now half-owner of Pioneer Broadcasting Company, broke ground for Radio Station KIVY.

Mr. Gibbs was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, having served during the Korean War, stationed in Japan. When his partner, Callen, passed away, he returned to Crockett to purchase sole ownership of the business. Once KIVY was on its feet, he moved to Dallas, Texas, where he was a camera man for WFAA-TV Channel 8. While working there, he met his future bride, Bettye Jean Porter, and won a national award for his coverage of the catastrophic Dallas tornado in the spring of 1951.

On November 10, 1956, Jim and Bettye were married and, along with their son Chuck, moved to Crockett. In 1957, Jim and Bettye's daughter, Tammy, was born, delivered by friend and family doctor C. O.

Murray who, along with W. D. "Big Dan" Julian, became her Godfather.

Through the years, Mr. Gibbs continued to be an entrepreneur and successful businessman by running an office supply store, a weekly newspaper, The ViewFinder, and adding an FM station and a low-power TV station to the Pioneer Broadcasting / KIVY "family".

Mr. Gibbs was a member of the Masonic Lodge, the National Association of Broadcasters, and he received numerous honors and awards from local civic and other local and national organizations. Mr. Gibbs and Bettye contributed to many local worthy causes and helped the fledgling Piney Woods Fine Arts Association get off the ground. They were also members of All Saints Episcopal Church and, more recently, the First United Methodist Church, where Jim volunteered countless hours of his time.

Mr. Gibbs is survived by his daughter Tammy Ann Gibbs, of Crockett, Texas; his sister-in-law Carole Keiffer, of Dallas, Texas; and his cousin Betsy Morris and her family, of Dover, Ohio. Also surviving are nieces Cheri, Amy, and Susan, nephew Paul, and their families; friend Jake Caprielian; other relatives, many friends, and beloved cat Sam.

Mr. Gibbs was preceded in death by his wife Bettye Jean Gibbs; son Charles Kenneth "Chuck" Gibbs; parents Howard and Tot Gibbs; brother-in-law Gene Keiffer; other relatives, several close friends; and numerous beloved cats.

Instead of flowers, Tammy requests that gifts be made to the First United Methodist Church of Crockett, P.O. Box 984, Crockett, Texas 75835.

**Callaway-Allee Funeral
Home**

