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### SAMUEL NEAL KNOX

Prominent Conroe businessman and community leader, Samuel Neal Knox, passed away Friday, Oct. 30, 1998 in Conroe. Mr. Knox was born July 12, 1924 in Lovelady. Mr. Knox was the owner of one of Conroe's downtown landmark stores, Knox Furniture Store for 38 years, until it was sold in 1984, and present owner of the historical "Knox Building" is downtown Conroe. Mr. Knox served Montgomery County as an insurance agent for State Farm Insurance and Farmer's Insurance for 30 years.

Mr. Knox graduated from Crockett High School and attended Rice University on a football scholarship. He married Nila Mitchell on Dec. 19, 1943 and moved to Conroe on Jan. 1, 1947. Mr. Knox's love of children and education was evident by his service to the Conroe Independent School District. Mr. Knox was elected to the CISD Board of Trustees in 1953 and served 24 years as member and as president of the school board during his tenure. On April 22, 1977, Mr. Knox stepped down from his board position, having served longer than any other member in the district's history. Mr. Knox saw the district grow from an enrollment of 2,719 to and era marked 20,000 pupils. He was involved in the planning of millions of dollars in educational facilities during his tenure. On Dec. 12, 1977, the board of trustees of the Conroe Independent School District voted unanimously to recognize him by naming its newest junior high school in his honor - Knox Junior High School. The school celebrated its 20th anniversary on Sept. 17, in which Mr. Knox gave his last encouraging speech to all who attended the ceremony.

Mr. Knox was a faithful 51 year member of the First Baptist Church in Conroe, and served as a deacon and deacon chairman. He was a member of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, a 50 year member of Masonic Lodge #748, A.F.&A.M., a 50 year member of Conroe Shriners and the Conroe Noon Lions Club. He enjoyed boating, camping, and golfing.

Survivors include his loving wife, Nila; daughter, Nancy and husband, Covey Smith; granddaughters, Faith and husband, Frank Iwaniw, Alison Kirk; great-grandson, Frank Cody Iwaniw; brother, Clifford Knox of Crockett; sisters, Vera Hart of Baytown, Anna Faye and husband, John Markham of Trinity, Beulah Holliday of Plano; also god-daughters, Diann Coleman Moses, Yvonne Coleman Hoke; numerous nieces, nephews, a host of friends and family. A very special thanks to loving friend Dennis Byers for all he has done to help.

Funeral services for Mr. Knox were held Monday, Nov. 2 at 3 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Conroe with the Rev. Cliff Herrington and the Rev. Charles Downey officiating. Interment followed in the Conroe Memorial Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Jim Stroope, Ben Sinclair, Jack Curtis, Gene Baker, Norvall Mears, Mel Westmoreland.

Honorary pallbearers were the deacons of the First Baptist Church Body, Lee Witt, J.L. "Mac" McCullough, past and present CISD school board members, and faculty, staff and student body of Knox Junior High School.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the "Neal Knox Scholarship Fund" in honor of his love and devotion to children and education. Donations may be made through Woodforest National Bank in Conroe, 3101 W. Davis St., Conroe, Texas 77304, Acct. #5097936.

Cashner Funeral Home