

## ROBERT FREDERICK LEARY

Robert Frederick Leary, 80, of Lufkin, was born in Paterson, N.J. on July 14, 1920 to Frederick P. Leary and Janet Robertson Leary. Robert graduated from Columbia University in New York with a Master's degree in chemical engineering. During World War II, he was hired by what was originally Esso Research and Engineering Company, later to become Exxon Corporation, to work on inventing artificial rubber for tires, which were much needed at that time. Mr. Leary had thirty-one inventions patented while he was in "Research and Development" before moving up into management. He was recognized by his peers on January 14, 1977, for being awarded a Bicentennial Patent Medallion for ranking sixth among the top 25 holders of USA Patents in the Chemical Technology Department. He retired from Exxon after forty years of service.

After retirement in 1982, he began another chapter in his life. He was treasurer for Habitat for Humanity-Northwest Chapter-Houston. He returned to college to study the humanities, which he had missed in earlier studies. He served on the Vestry at St. Francis-in-the-Valley Episcopal Church, and was the person in charge of the stewardship committee. He learned to square dance, and loved hiking and golf. Mr. Leary was an avid golfer and was a member of Crown Colony Golf club, and has many friends from his senior's group. He was a former member of Champions Golf Club in Houston and Desert Hills Golf Club in Green Valley, Ar.

Robert is survived by his beloved wife, Wanda Rushing Leary; sons, and daughters-in-law, David F. and Kathy Leary of Palo Alto, Ca., Robert H. and Saskia Leary of Carlsbad, Ca.; daughters and sons-in-law, Wanda Jean and Nick Damian of Pearland, Tammy and Loden Ainsworth of Houston; grandchildren, Jessie S. Leary of Palo Alto, Ca., Joseph D. Bradshaw of Pearland, Patrick S. Bradshaw of Ft. Stewart, Ga., David Mooneyham Jr. of Crockett, Scott Taylor of South Dakota, cullen A. Ainsworth of Houston; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Fannie Rushing Strickland and Charles Strickland;

sister-in-law, Ima Burson of Ratcliff; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Bobby and Judy Rushing; and many nieces, and nephews.

He wished to thank his special care giver, Dawn Russell, who became like a member of the family, as well as his special nurse from Hospice, Dawn Ellis, for their love and support.

Memorial services were held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, July 19, at St. Cyprians Episcopal Church with the Rev. Hugh O. Bell Jr. officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in his name to Hospice in the Pines, Habitat for Humanity, the Cancer Society, or to Kurth Memorial Library.

**Gipson-Metcalf Funeral  
Directors**