

November 11, 2007

**Dr. TAFF**

Dr. W.N. Taff, also known as "Judge Taff" to many in our community, passed from this life on Monday morning, October 22, 2007 at his home in Cleveland. He survived by his loving wife, Mary Jane, whom he married in August of 1950. Together they had 5 children: Brenda Taff Gardner of Devine, Texas, Janie Taff Prather of Cleveland, Texas, Norris Taff, Jr. of Tomball, Texas, Michael S. Taff of Houston, Texas and Allison A. Taff of Cleveland, Texas. Their union also produced 10 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren: Jimmy Gardner, III, Jason Gardner, Alan Prather, Michael Prather, Will Taff, Amber Taff, Carson Taff, Kaylee Taff, Madison Taff, Jackson Taff, Callie Gardner and Logan Klause. Four loving caregivers made Judge Taff's last years more enjoyable: Joan Burnett, Mattie Runyon, Cynthia Allen and Nora Marsh.

Funeral services were held for Judge Taff at Westside Church of Christ, Wednesday, October 24, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. with interment at Cleveland Memorial Park Cemetery. Judge Taff was born on March 21, 1926 in Gilmer, Texas to Herbert and Fay Taff. Just before his high school graduation, Norris Taff joined the United States Air Force on March 6, 1944 and served during WWII until his Honorable Discharge on October 31, 1945. After his time in the Air Force, he attended Baylor University and received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Science in 1948. The University of Texas Dental School was his home for the next four years. This is where he met the girl of his dreams, Mary Jane Allison. After receiving his D.D.S., he and Mary Jane set up their first dental practice in Longview, Texas in 1952. In 1955 he and Mary Jane and family moved to Pittsburg, Texas to practice dentistry, and then to Houston. In Houston he opened a dental practice and taught at the University of Texas Dental School. It was in 1961 that he and his family moved to Cleveland, Texas to practice dentistry on Bonham Street. In 1970 Dr. Norris Taff began a real estate business, and later in 1982 became the City Judge of Cleveland. Judge Taff retired in December 2003 after serving as the Municipal Judge in Cleveland for 21 years. During his last several years, he and Mary Jane enjoyed many weekends at his farm in Rayburn where he raised Longhorn cattle. The only thing that made him happier than going to "the farm" was spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren. He was happiest when they were all together at birthdays and holidays and other special occasions. Judge Taff was a member of the Westside Church of Christ. We will all miss him dearly.