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**WILLIAM C. "BILL"
WEDEMEYER**

Mr. William C. "Bill" Wedemeyer, passed away December 5, 2002 in a Temple Hospital. Mr. Wedemeyer was born on September 24, 1915, in Crystal City. A Memorial service was held Monday, December 16, 2002 7 at 2:00 p.m. at Columbus Avenue Baptist Church with the Rev. Ron Durham officiating.

Mr. Wedemeyer was the descendant of pioneer German Texans and spent his early years on a cotton plantation in Houston County, near Crockett. After graduation from Texas A&M College in 1938, he began what became a life-long career in agricultural education by teaching vocational agriculture at Tennessee Colony and Crockett. These activities were interrupted when he entered active service in the U.S. Army in June 1942. Mr. Wedemeyer served overseas in Iceland, England, and Continental Europe until the war's end, returning home in September 1945. While on active duty, he received the Bronze Star medal and the EAME Campaign medal with five bronze service stars.

In 1951, Mr. Wedemeyer began a 33-year career with Texas Farm Bureau by working as a field representative organizing county farm bureaus. In 1957, he was selected to create and head the organization's newly formed Re-

search, Education, and Policy Development Department in the State office in Waco. Un this role, Mr. Wedemeyer published a weekly newsletter, established a major research library, and compiled subject papers to address policy issues related to agriculture. Mr. Wedemeyer held this responsibility for 27 years until his retirement in 1985.

Mr. Wedemeyer's foremost characteristic throughout his life was his constant and unwavering faith in God. Mr. Wedemeyer was active in every aspect of church life as a deacon, and Sunday school teacher wherever he and his family lived. Mr. Wedemeyer and his family have been members of Columbus Avenue Baptist Church since 1964. When the church doors were opened, he and his family were there. More importantly, his manner of living demonstrated a commitment to living the Christian life in a practical and useful way each day.

Mr. Wedemeyer's next most important priority was his family.

Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Beth Jeffus Wedemeyer; son Charles Wedemeyer and wife Kay, of Oklahoma City, and their children, Kristin Miller and Drew and his wife Ellen; son Phil Wedemeyer and wife Nancy, of Houston and their sons John, Stephen, and David; and son Thomas Wedemeyer and wife Ruth, also of Houston, and their sons Brian, Mark, and Stuart.

Mr. Wedemeyer's grandchildren served as pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers, memorial may be directed to Columbus Avenue Baptist Church Building Fund or a charity of your choice.

Wilkirson-Hatch-Bailey

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