

348



**DR. RAYMOND
CHARLES WILLIFORD**

Dr. Raymond Charles Williford, DVM "Doc," age 74, passed away Friday, February 25, 2005 at his home with his loving family by his side. Dr. Williford was a native Houstonian, born September 5, 1930 to Laura Erp and Baldwin Williford at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Dr. Williford attended Pershing Junior High School and was a 1948 graduate of Mirabeau B. Lamar High School. On August 31, 1951 he married his high school sweetheart, Martha Tullis, and the couple moved to College Station, where he realized his dream of graduating with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from his beloved Texas A&M. Dr. Williford was a member of the Class of 1952.

While at A&M, he was a member of the Cadet Corps and was a Singing Cadet. Upon graduating from A&M, he served in the U.S. Air Force in Germany where he attained the rank of Captain. Dr. Williford was honorably discharged in 1956 and returned to Houston to practice medicine with the late Dr. R.D. Ward. In 1960, Dr. Williford and Martha moved to Crockett, where he founded the Houston County Veterinary Hospital. Dr. Williford had many friends throughout Houston County as well as surrounding areas because of his caring and compassionate demeanor toward both patients and owners alike.

In 1972, Dr. Williford and his family returned to Houston where he founded the Bellaire West Veterinary Clinic. Dr. Williford practiced at this location from 1972 until 1994, when he was compelled to retire because of Parkinson's Disease.

Dr. Williford was a member of the Sharpstown Rotary Club from 1972 until 1993, The American Veterinary Medical Association, and The Texas Veterinary Association. Dr. Williford was an avid golfer and was privileged to receive recognition for his "Hole in One game." Dr. Williford loved fishing as well. Dr. Williford was well known for his beautiful handmade leather goods and designed and created many custom items for his clients.

Survivors include his loving wife of 53 years, Martha; daughters Kathy Hall and husband Scott, of Lindale, Sherry Williford, of Houston, Debbie Bruce and husband Michael, of Houston; two grandchildren Melissa Gay Hall, of Lindale and Michael Hall and wife Jennifer, of Daingerfield; two great-grandchildren Hallie Hall and Jacob Hall, of Daingerfield; sisters-in-law Naomi

Tullis, of Inverness, Fla., Marjorie Morgan and Martha K. Williford, both of Houston; nephews Michael K. Moran and David T. Morgan, of Houston and Dennis G. Moran, of Blandon, Pa.; nieces Janet Ferguson and Laurie Williford, both of Houston and Jamie Johnson, of Dallas, James "Butch" Arnold, of Crockett who was considered a brother to him

Preceded in death by his parents Laura and Baldwin Williford; brother Bud Williford; and grandson Shane Everett Hall.

Funeral services for Dr. Raymond Charles Williford were held on Tuesday, March 1, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul United Methodist Church, 5501 Main Street, with Dr. Terry Thompson officiating. Interment followed at Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Pat Murphy, Dr. Nathan Maxon, Michael Moran, Scott Hall, Michael Hall and Steve Johnson.

Honorary Pallbearers were Robert C. Hulon, of Willis and Joe Miller, of San Antonio.

If desired, remembrances may be made to the Houston Parkinson's Foundation, Houston Hospice, or Texas A&M Scholarship fund for Veterinary Medicine.

Geo. H. Lewis & Sons