



Dan Smith Davis

June 2, 1939 - October 17, 2013

DAN SMITH DAVIS After a courageous three year battle with cancer, Dan Smith Davis passed away at his home in Huntsville, Texas, on October 12, 2013. A seventh generation resident of Walker County, Dan was born on June 2, 1939, in Huntsville to Sue Anna and Raymond Davis. Dan loved growing up in Huntsville and enjoyed playing sports such as baseball and football. He enjoyed throughout his life the many friendships he made as a child. Dan loved exploring the woods and fishing at the family's beloved Lake Sudan. At the age of 15, Dan was selected as a Jr. Ambassador to South America representing the East Texas Chamber of Commerce. He had the interesting experience of meeting all of the heads of government of the countries he visited, including Juan Peron. This trip was the catalyst that fueled his love of travel that lasted his lifetime. After graduation from Huntsville High School in 1957, he attended Rice University and graduated with a degree in Economics. Following his graduation from Rice in 1961, he married his high school sweetheart, Elsie. They celebrated their 50th Wedding anniversary in Italy two years ago. He called her Queenie and he was her Prince Charming. Dan was commissioned as an Officer in the United States Marine Corps in 1961. Dan and Elsie lived in Virginia and California while Dan was in the service. He and his unit were deployed during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Throughout the years, Dan enjoyed reading the Commandant's letter at the commencement of the annual Marine Corps Birthday Celebration. He was truly proud to be an American, and always flew the American flag at his home on holidays. In

1964, Dan became a father to his greatest gift of all, daughter Jennifer. They adored each other. They truly understood each other from the beginning and possessed the same sense of humor. He was the father that every child deserves. Many years were spent in commercial banking. He began his career as an officer at Republic National Bank in Dallas, Texas. He was a Vice President at First City National Bank in Houston, and traveled between Houston and New York City as a Vice President of Citibank. Dan was also a Sr. Vice President at Sam Houston National Bank. Dan was President of two banks; Huntsville National Bank and Ridgelea National Bank of Fort Worth. After his retirement, Dan managed the family investment partnership. From 1992 until 2000, Dan served on the Huntsville City Council. He served as Mayor Pro-tem his last year as a Council member. He was chairman of the finance committee and represented Huntsville on the Houston-Galveston Area Council. Dan was elected President of the San Jacinto Region of the Texas Municipal League spanning the Greater Houston Area. The Texas Attorney General appointed Dan to serve on the Municipal Advisory Committee in Austin. In 2002, Dan served as Chairman of the Board of the Huntsville Walker County Chamber of Commerce. He was honored to be the first recipient to receive the Edwin G. Sandhop Spirit of Huntsville Award at the Chamber Gala in 2010. Dan became a dedicated Rotarian when he served as the President of the Huntsville Rotary Club. That was the year Rotary began the Polio Plus project to help eradicate polio throughout the world. He and Elsie have continued to support Polio Plus for many years by becoming Major Donors and benefactors to the Rotary Foundation. Dan was selected as the Rotary District Governor of District 5910. Dan and Elsie enjoyed traveling and making numerous friends in the district and all over the world. Dan was a multiple Paul Harris Fellow. In 2006, Dan became a board member of the Texas Lone Star Pets, President Elects Training Seminar, which is mandatory training for all incoming Texas Rotary Presidents. He served as Operating Chair and was Chairman of the Board in 2013. Dan was an especially proud father when he inducted his daughter, Jennifer, into the Huntsville Rotary Club

in 2012, and again when he installed her as a Director of the Huntsville Rotary Board in 2013. Dan served on the board of the Josey Scout Lodge, the Raven's Hill Higher Education Board and the cemetery advisory board. He is a past board member and treasurer of the General Sam Houston Folk Festival, the local Y.M.C.A., the Walker County Industrial Development Corporation and treasurer of the American Red Cross. He served as treasurer of the Wynne Home. Dan co-chaired the dedication ceremonies of the General Sam Houston Statue on I-45. For over 20 years, he narrated the play "Gone To Texas" including performances at the Wortham Theatre in Houston and at The Alamo. Dan loved a spirited competition of mind and wit. Their Sunday night bridge club consisting of Dan and Elsie, Jane and Charles Monday, Diane and Bill Green, and Anne and Wayne Froelich was a long standing tradition filled with laughter, good food and a little competitive fun. These lifelong friends were frequent travel companions with a mutual interest in their love of history, among other subjects. Dan loved to read and had a sharp intellect along with a thirst for knowledge. He was often quoted saying "Never stop learning", and to his credit, he never did. He was passionate about music, especially jazz and the blues, and owned an extensive music collection. Rare was the occasion that one entered his home, office or car where he did not have music playing. He loved watching football with his family, playing tennis and collecting foreign coins. Dan will always be remembered for his generosity, kindness and sense of humor. His love of his family, his friends and Huntsville was exceptional. He was an honorable man with strong values. When diagnosed with a rare form of cancer in 2010, Dan's spirit and his faith in God were immeasurable. He approached cancer as with everything in his life – with a positive attitude. He was concerned how his diagnosis would affect his family, rather than himself. He never complained and always put forth a brave face to those around him, reminding us all of his courage. It is with heavy hearts that we must say goodbye. Dan was preceded in death by his parents, Sue Anna and Raymond Davis; and his sister Suzanne Gillespie. He is

survived by his wife, Elsie and daughter, Jennifer. Dan is also survived by niece Shannah Adem and husband Martin Adem; nephew Dr. Ben Marcus Gillespie and wife Nisa; niece Angela Baker and husband, Henry Baker. Their children: Sarah Colavito and daughter Lilah, Clay Hale, Sam Hale, Aaron Gillespie, Asia Gillespie, Brad Bauer, Amber Kahil and her husband Dale, and Thomas Baker. Brother-In-Law Buddy Corcoran and wife Wanda; Brother-in-law Elmer Corcoran and wife Joyce; Brother-In-Law Wayne Corcoran and wife Patti. Their children; niece Michaela Corcoran Ginsel and husband Ricky Ginsel, Chelsea Ginsel Gunderson and husband Chip Gunderson; April Corcoran and son Dylan; Michael Rinehart and son Aiden; nephew Anthony Corcoran and wife Sonja Corcoran, and son Cody Corcoran; and nephew Russell Corcoran. He is also survived by numerous relatives and loving friends. Serving as honorary pallbearers are Dr. Gene Barrett, Elmer Corcoran, Dr. Bill Green, Bill Hodges, Col. John McManners, Dr. Charles Monday, The Rotary Club of Huntsville and The Rotary District Governors of 5910. Family will receive friends Wednesday, October 16th, from 5:00–7:00 p.m. at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home Chapel. A service celebrating Dan's life will be on Thursday, October 17th at 2:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Huntsville. All are invited to attend a reception in the Fellowship Hall at the church. A private family interment will be held at a later time. The family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions in Dan's memory be directed to First United Methodist Church, 1016 Sam Houston Avenue, Huntsville, Texas 77320 or to the annual fund of the M.D. Anderson Cancer Research Center, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, P.O. Box 4486, Houston, Texas 77210-4486. Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at www.shmfh.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Dan Smith Davis*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Thinking of you Elsie. I'm so grateful for you and Dan. Wishing you peace.*

Nancy B Bounds - January 15, 2014 at 02:46 PM



“ *Elsie and Jennifer, what a dear, dear sweet man Dan was. I am so sorry to just learn of his passing. His smile was contagious and he was always so gracious to our mother and daddy. He will be very missed by many.*

Marilyn Smith Scott - October 30, 2013 at 09:54 PM



“ *Elsie and Jennifer I send my thoughts and prayers to you. I just learned of Dan's passing tonight from my sister Marilyn Smith Scott. She happened to see it in the Huntsville Item. I am so sorry for your loss. There are not many words that can take away your grief but I pray that God will share His Love and protection to you. Being a member of the "Smith family" gave us a larger feeling of belonging to something special. Dan always greeted us with his smile and wit. May your many family memories of love and faith give you strength.*

Jeanette Smith Roberts - October 30, 2013 at 07:54 PM



“ *We are sorry for your loss. Praying for family.*

Mellicent Wiley & Family - October 22, 2013 at 01:21 PM

CR

“ Mrs. Davis and Jennifer, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Mr. Davis was a remarkable man and I feel truly blessed and honored to have known him. He was very influential to me in my decision to become a business major in college. He was so easy to talk to and always made me feel welcomed in your home. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Craig Remeny - October 17, 2013 at 11:59 PM

DF

“ Elsie and Jennifer, I am sorry to hear of Dan's passing away. I always enjoyed playing tennis and trading coins with him. Dan was always a joy to be around. You and your family will be in our prayers.

Dan & Tasha (Shearer) Fry - October 17, 2013 at 11:31 AM

LB

“ I have really awesome memories of being at the Davis house as a Teenager. Many of those were being able to talk to Dan and learn about Music... He had the best taste of course.....He was always ready to laugh...and a person who really enjoyed young people and you never got the feeling that he wanted to do anything else than talk and visit with you while you where in front of him. I have always thought that Jenny was one of the Luckiest Girls in the World....I still do..Elise, you are in my thoughts and prayers..I love you Girls! Dan the Man!

Lisa Boatmanbowen - October 16, 2013 at 10:13 PM

GE

“ Dear Elsie and Jennifer,
I am so sorry to learn of Dan's passing. While you and Dan grew and served Huntsville over the years, I know that his Rotary Spirit of Service will live on for years to come. God Bless you and yours in this time of loss.

George Evans - October 16, 2013 at 08:16 PM

DT

“ Elsie and family,
I am so sorry to hear of your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you. May God wrap his loving arms around you. Take care.
Dorothea

Dorothea Tarver - October 16, 2013 at 06:58 PM

TS

“ Elsie and Jennifer,
So sorry to hear of your loss. When I think about the lifetime contributions he gave to this community and to countless other organizations, he exemplified "service above self". He will be missed. You and your family are in my prayers.

Terry Stivers - October 16, 2013 at 04:39 PM

AS

“ Dearest Elsie,

I know you will carry out the loving and giving spirit that you and Dan have always bestowed upon those of us who are blessed to have known the two of you. I can never express enough appreciation for all the love and consideration the two of you have shown me. Not too many days go by that I do not thank God for the circumstances that allowed our paths to cross, and I will be quite prayful that God continues to shower you with all his adoring love and support you need to carry you through the days and years to come. Pls know how much you are loved, and while Dan's passing is such a devastating loss for those of us who remain on earth, I know it and cherish this time as the blessing it truly is meant to be. God Bless and you will always be in my prayers and heavy on my mind. Pls know you can reach out to me for anything you may need.

With all my love,

Anna

Anna Shaheen - October 16, 2013 at 03:08 PM

JV

“ Dan was a true Gentleman in every sense of the word and Huntsville is grateful of the service he gave to the community. His graciousness and smile will be sorely missed. You are in our prayers.

JD and Vicki - October 16, 2013 at 02:49 PM

JS

“ Dan's service to others - steady, substantial, and quiet - has always been an inspiration to his larger family. His passing makes us mad at Death all over again. Thank goodness that he has had Elsie and Jennifer close by to see him through. Love to them always.

John Warren Smith - October 16, 2013 at 09:46 AM

LB

“ Elsie, I was saddened to hear of Dans' passing. I hope that you are heartened by the admiration and love you see people had for him. To me the way to measure a person's life, how successful he truly was is to see how he served his family, his community and his friends. How proud you and Jennifer must be of a well lived life and of the love and service he gave so willingly. My family and I are praying for you and Jennifer. I know you are exhausted so I will give you a little while, but I will speak with you soon. God Bless you in this hard time. Lois Boatman

Lois Boatman - October 15, 2013 at 11:50 PM

JM

“ Jenny, I was so sorry to learn of the death of your Father. I never had the pleasure of meeting him, but it is obvious he was a wonderful man. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your Mom at this difficult time. Hold the memories of your Dad close to heart and they will sustain you.
Thinking of you!

Jeanine DeLay Mouret - October 15, 2013 at 05:10 PM

JV

“ When I first met Dan at a Huntsville Rotary meeting he knew that I was a Rotarian from Pearland and told me I would be President of the Huntsville Club-I told him no way-but I soon learned that when it came to Rotary service you didn't tell Mr. Davis no. I loved that about him and he helped me numerous ways and showed "Service above Self"

Jon & Roxey Volkmer - October 15, 2013 at 04:04 PM

GN

“ Elsie and family,
We are so sorry to hear of the death of Dan. We always shared a good laugh and good times together. We know he will be missed. You are in our prayers. Yours In Rotary, Gary and Cindy Nolte

Gary and Cindy Nolte - October 15, 2013 at 04:02 PM

RD

“ Mrs. Davis & Jennifer, I just want you both to know that I will always hold a special place in my heart for Mr. Dan Davis. He was exceptional. What a kind man with a wonderful smile, and an easy way about him. The times I spent at the Davis home, in college, rank right up there with some of my best memories of youth. Hang on to your own memories, during this hard time. Just know that we all will be missing him with you but know too that his spirit lives on. I love you both, Robin

Robin Harris Dwyer - October 15, 2013 at 12:30 PM

BS

“ Dear Elsie and Jennifer,
It is with great sorrow I hear of the passing of Dan. Please accept Doris and my condolences. We will be with you in prayer and in your time of need.

*Bobby & Doris Simon AG D5910
PP Nederland Rotary Club*

Bobby Simon - October 15, 2013 at 12:10 PM

MM

“ Mrs. Davis and Family: On behalf of the Woodlands Rotary Club we extend to all of you our sincere sympathy on the loss of your husband. He was very well known throughout the Rotary district and visited our club more than once. He will be missed.

*Mary Matteson-Parrish
Past President
The Rotary club of
The Woodlands*

Mary Matteson-Parrish - October 15, 2013 at 10:47 AM

KT

“ Elsie and Jennifer, I am praying for you all during this season. As a community we have lost a great person and advocate for Huntsville. Dan will be greatly missed.

Kimm Thomas - October 15, 2013 at 09:15 AM

CP

“ Dear Elsie and Jennifer,

I was so sorry to hear about Dan's passing. Our thoughts and prayers will be with both of you.

*Sincerely,
Carlyn*

carlyn pfeuffer - October 15, 2013 at 09:03 AM

AB

“ Elsie and Jennifer,

With heavy hearts, we read of Dan's passing. We are so sorry. Dan was a wonderful friend and helper. When Rotary needed him, you were both there. We appreciate his service.

Reading his obituary, exemplifies a life filled with service to many.

What a wonderful, dear person. Many remember him

and our world is better for his life. You and Jennifer will be in our prayers. May God give you strength at this sad time.

Ann and Bob Bragg

Ann and Bob Bragg - October 14, 2013 at 11:59 PM

RG

“ Aunt Elsie and Jennie you are loved and thought of deeply today, praying for peace. I love him too " My Uncle Dan Davis" may have gone home.... but he will always be remembered as a gentle kind man. As a child I can still remember the gentleness in his voice and the joy in his smile....I can still hear his voice "Well...hello Michaela", as if I were the only person in the room. As I was reading in the good book, I found this verse that tells how a Godly man should be and it describes my Uncle Dan very well.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Ricky and Michaela Ginsel - October 14, 2013 at 08:28 PM

MN

“ Dear Elsie:
Needless to say, we are at a loss upon hearing of Dan's death. We discuss among ourselves the many, many, good times we shared together and will always remember them among our fondest memories. With much love and eternal friendship,
Marcus and Nancy

p.s. "take care"

Marcus & Nancy - October 14, 2013 at 08:15 PM

GG

“ Dan was a great friend and supporter in my Huntsville Rotary days. I am so blessed to have known him and wish the family the best as you go through this difficult time.

Greg and Dani Gathright - October 14, 2013 at 07:53 PM

ND

“ *Elsie and Jennifer, you will be in our prayers for the coming days and months.*

It was with heavy hearts that we read of Dan's passing. We feel very blessed today that Dan shared his love of God, family, and Rotary with us. We enjoyed his humor, and treasured his advice. We were honored to be call a "friend".

Dan will be missed by many. We, however, are better people today because he passed our way.

May God provide peace and comfort at this time of sorrow.

Norman and Brenda Dykes - October 14, 2013 at 06:11 PM

BW

“ *Elsie & Jennifer,
What a tremendous loss for your family and the Huntsville community. Dan was always the epitome of graciousness, and I will always think of his smile and the gleam in his eyes. Truly a remarkable person. May God Bless and comfort you with a lifetime of sweet memories.*

Brenda & Stack Walker - October 14, 2013 at 06:09 PM

DC

“ *Mrs. Davis & Jennifer, Mr. Davis was a true gentleman and a scholar. My heart breaks for you both as you mourn his loss. He was a ray of light and a fabulously smart and funny man. I will miss him dearly and cherish the time over the years that I got to spend with him. What a beautiful tribute to him. You all are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Dallas Crawford - October 14, 2013 at 06:05 PM

JD

“ *Elsie and Jennifer - Steve and I just read the beautifully written obituary for an absolutely beautiful life. Dan was a prince - a very special person! Our prayers are with you both. Jan and Steve Davis*

Jan Davis - October 14, 2013 at 05:34 PM

JD

“ *Elsie and Jennifer - Steve and I just read the beautifully written obituary for an absolutely beautiful life. Dad was a prince - a very special person! Our prayers are with you both. Jan and Steve Davis*

Jan Davis - October 14, 2013 at 05:33 PM

RM

“ *Elsie and Jennifer,
Like so many who are proud to have called Dan "friend," I will miss our occasional lunch times where we discussed the issues of the day. Dan was warmly sophisticated, brilliantly knowledgeable and a trusted confidant. In so very many ways Dan will be missed as a "do-er" in this community. His efforts on behalf of his beloved hometown will forever be remembered and appreciated by all of us. We are all fortunate to have had him in our lives. Jere' and I mourn with both of you as you go through this difficult period.*

Robert McCann - October 14, 2013 at 05:25 PM

DB

“ *Dear Elsie, so sorry to hear about Dan's passing. It was good to see you at the reunion. You both looked so happy & well. Enjoyed visiting at 12th Street Antiques the day after the reunion. It gave us a chance to visit some more & I loved it. Much love and prayers, Dorothy*

Dorothy Countryman Baker - October 14, 2013 at 01:43 PM

HB

“ Harry and iwere so saddened to hear of Dans passing! He was such a nice an and we are proud to have known him! Prayers and thoughts to you and family!

Harry and grace Bohan - October 14, 2013 at 01:06 PM

PD

“ Elsie and Jennifer, I am so sorry to hear about Dan. It was good to see y'all at the reunion. We all have such fond memories growing up together when we lived so close. It is hard being so far apart now. Wish I could be there with you. The girls and I will keep you in our prayers. Love you, Phyllis, Cayton, and Carlyn

Phyllis Walker Dugan - October 14, 2013 at 11:36 AM

MA

“ Dear Elsie and Jennifer, I am so, so sorry for your loss of your dear husband and father. He will be deeply missed by many.

Marjolein - October 14, 2013 at 11:01 AM

TG

“ Tom and I are so sorry to hear of Dan's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Tom and Debbie Grisham - October 14, 2013 at 10:14 AM

PP

“ Phyllis and I are very sorry to hear of your loss. Dan was a great inspiration and we always enjoyed his sense of humor. We will miss him and keep you all in our prayers.

Phil & Phyllis Palmer - October 14, 2013 at 09:48 AM

LG

“ *Elsie and Jennifer, we are so sorry to hear about Dan. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. We love you both*

Larry & Martha Grisham - October 13, 2013 at 11:35 PM

DJ

“ *Dan was an awesome member of city council. I am a staff member at the city and appreciated his dedication. I am so sorry for your loss*

Debra Jones - October 13, 2013 at 08:38 PM

SS

“ *Elsie and Jennifer,
I am very sorry to hear of your loss! Dan was a great husband, father and friend. He did so much for our community and will be sorely missed. You and your family are in my prayers!!!*

Steed Smith - October 13, 2013 at 11:00 AM

BN

“ *Elsie and Jennifer, So sorry to read of Dan passing away. You and your family will be in my prayers.*

Beverly Conner Niederhofer - October 12, 2013 at 09:03 PM