



Harry Hoechten

November 19, 1923 - July 5, 2006

Dr. Harry Vincent Hoechten Graveside services for Dr. Harry Vincent Hoechten, age 82, will be held on Wednesday, July 5th , 11:30AM at Houston National Cemetery, Houston, Texas under the direction of Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home, Montgomery, Texas with Father Seth Hermoso officiating. Dr. Hoechten passed into eternity on Monday, July 3, 2006, after medical complications of declining health. Dr. Hoechten led a very celebrated life. Born November 19, 1923, he began his life journey as a child growing up in San Antonio, Texas. As a young man he began his illustrious and distinguished career as a decorated World War II Army infantryman. Dr. Hoechten exemplified the embodiment of the brave heroes who fought at the infamous Anzio Beachhead in Italy though he minimally and humbly spoke of this horrific experience. Dr. Hoechten was presented with the Combat Infantry's Badge, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the European African Middle-Eastern Medal with Two Battle Stars, the American Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, and Marksmanship Medals. After serving in World War II, Dr. Hoechten's interest for academia enlightenment began his educational pursuit earning: a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from St. Mary's University of Texas, a Master of Arts Degree in Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma, and a Doctor of Public Administration Degree from Nova Southeastern University of Florida. Dr. Hoechten continued to further serve his country and family safeguarding our Nation's security through his career as a Staff Intelligence Officer with the

United States Air Force Intelligence Agency. He held various esteemed positions during his thirty-five years in the Agency including Assistant to the Chief of Staff, United States Air Force Electronic Security Command (official name at that time) and member of the Pentagon Speaker's Bureau. He served as a principal spokesman in the fields of Operations and Communications to numerous distinguished audiences within the United States including members of the White House Staff, members of Congress, several Secretaries of the Air Force, numerous Generals, and top management level of Department of Defense contractors. He performed the leading role in several Department of Defense motion pictures and television productions. Dr. Hoechten also served as a consultant to the State Department, Federal Aviation Administration, Central Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency, and private sector including the RAND Corporation, Boeing Aircraft, and the Institute for Defense Analysis. His excellence as a dedicated public servant resulted in his working side by side with many prominent government and military figures including such well known historical figures as Senator Barry Goldwater; keeping framed pictures of himself and these individuals in his office, not to boast, but to reminisce friendships of those he greatly respected. Dr. Hoechten was honored by the presentation of the Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service, the highest Air Force peacetime decoration for a civilian. Brigadier General Kenneth D. Burns, US Air Force Security Service Commander, presented this award to him. Dr. Hoechten also received the Meritorious Civil Service Medal, the Air University Award, and numerous other esteemed decorations. After his retirement as a US civil servant, Dr. Hoechten became a well-respected professor at Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA) in Nacogdoches, Texas, teaching in the Political Science Department basing his college lectures on real life experiences. Student after student have repeatedly stated how enriching and captivating his academia instruction was for them and even more honorably, what a wonderful and caring professor he was, always taking a personal interest in them willing to give his time and a listening ear. Dr. Hoechten was also a member of several

SFA committees and advisory bodies. In addition to his instruction at SFA, Dr. Hoechten made his technical resources available to inmate students at the Coffield Unit of the Texas Department of Corrections. An article written about him quoted him as saying, "I feel fortunate to be able to contribute to the rehabilitation process of a group of people needing assistance". A card sent to Dr. Hoechten by one of the inmates on Father's Day is kept by the family in remembrance of how well respected and loved he was by individuals of all walks of life. Dr. Hoechten also gave of his time to invest in his local community serving on various board memberships of local city government and community agencies. He attended the Sacred Heart Catholic Church of Nacogdoches. He was also a very dedicated and quite active Veterans Administration member, this being a very important organization to him to honor all American Veterans and educating the public about the importance of their military service by guest lecturing and organizing Veteran activities. Dr. Hoechten, a distinguished gentleman, was much more than an individual with impressive credentials and decorated honors; he was a man rich in good deeds; kind, generous, and willing to share of himself, leaving so many special memories to so many whose lives he touched deeply, a rare and extraordinary individual. He laid a firm foundation for his family cherishing his Heavenly Father and his loved ones above all else while taking hold of life with exuberance and grace. Dr. Hoechten is survived by his beloved family: wife of sixty years, Charmaine Hoechten; his sons Vincent Hoechten of League City and Keith Hoechten of Nacogdoches, his daughter Doris Casseb of League City; his grandchildren Audra Richardson of Pueblo West, Colorado, Ryan Hoechten of Austin, and Erica Hoechten of Portland, Oregon; his great grandchildren Taylor McKenna Richardson and Josiah Blaze Richardson of Pueblo West, Colorado. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be made to VFW Post #3893, 2406 Hunter, Nacogdoches, Texas 75965. You may leave condolences to the family at www.shmfh.com.

Tribute Wall



“ After so many years, hardly a day goes by that I still do not think about you Dr. Hoechten. Had it not been for your guidance and friendship, I never would have finished my degree - of course in Public administration - and gone on to grad school. When I look back on my long life, you, without a doubt had a major impact on my life. I was an older student at SFA and a task force cop, and Dr. Hoechten could always read me and tell when I was thinking about giving up being a student too. He would make a point of running into me off campus and getting me to keep going until I graduated. Dr. Hoechten is one of the finest people that I had the privilege to call my friend and mentor. May you rest in eternal peace. Guy Genovese SFASU 1995

Guy Genovese - October 03, 2024 at 08:03 AM



“ *Harry Hoechten*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Dr. Hoechten was one of the most cherished professor's I ever had. I never wanted to try harder to do good than I did for Harry. He was the professor in my major and would often times encourage me to keep trying harder to fulfill my potential. He is someone that has remained in my thoughts for the past 15 years since I graduated. He was interesting man and a great teacher.*

*Alan Zepeda
SFA Class of 94*

Alan Zepeda - February 11, 2009 at 02:11 PM

“ I was so saddened to learn of Dr. Hoechten's passing. His obituary, probably the most beautifully written one I have ever read, reminded me of things I knew about him and shared experiences about which I didn't know.

Dr. Hoechten was my major professor at SFA during my undergrad years and a MAJOR force in my decision to go to graduate school. He kept up with my comings and goings, when I didn't realize he was doing so. I'd have the good fortune to see him around town and we'd always hug, catch up, and he invariably told me how proud he was of whatever I was doing.

I think that he understood, better than even my own family, why I chose to run for political office -- we were kindred spirits in believing that there was no greater good than serving your country and helping your fellow man (and woman!). He was proof positive that "doing the right thing" with competence and self-confidence not only gets the job done well, but also receives the recognition it deserves.

John had the pleasure of serving on some SFA committees with Dr. Hoechten, which helped John understand my deep affection for Dr. Hoechten.

You know, I'm sure that he told me to call him Harry (after I graduated), but I never could -- I have too much respect for him. He and my dad were cut from the same cloth, as were many of their generation. And Heaven knows, I wouldn't THINK of calling my dad by his first name, Jet!

Dr. Hoechten was a man of integrity, a gentleman of the highest order, a true patriot, a scholar, and a friend. I will miss him.

Thanks you for sharing him with all of us. Our prayers are with you as we celebrate and remember his life. He was a GOOD man -- it doesn't get much better than that.

*With love and tears,
Robin Moore, SFA '86*

Robin & John Moore - July 04, 2006 at 10:02 AM