



## John Robert Ragsdale

September 8, 1935 - November 13, 2024

John Robert Ragsdale passed away peacefully at his home in Montgomery, Texas, surrounded by his wife and daughters on November 13, 2024. He was born in Houston on September 8, 1935 to Coke Ono Ragsdale and Winnie Laurene (Wilshire) Ragsdale and was raised in Humble, Texas. He was a proud graduate of Humble High School and Sam Houston State University, Class of 1959, where he was in the ROTC program. He was in a fraternity precursor called, Caballero which became a Sigma Chi Chapter where he was an initiated member.

Upon receiving a Bachelor of Business Administration, he began his commission in the US Army.

He achieved the rank of 1st Lieutenant as a Launching Platoon Leader for the Nike Hercules missile team, 62nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment. He was also recognized as an excellent marksman with several commendations. While stationed in Buffalo, New York, he met and married Mary Ellen (Mintzas) Ragsdale. After his commission was completed, the couple moved to Houston, Texas where they began their life together raising two daughters, Georgia and Laura.

He began his work life in the early 1960's as a salesman for the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company where he was awarded, "Top Ten Sales Representative." After this achievement was won, the company attempted to

reassign him to a poorly performing territory with only a meagre improvement in salary. At this pivotal moment, he realized that he needed to be his own boss and control his own future. This became a key piece of advice that he would share with others throughout his life.

In the mid 1960's, he found his way to a new business concept called "franchising" and took a risk opening his own Burger King in the Houston area. By the time of his retirement, he and a couple of partners owned and operated 23 stores. During these years, he invested in Klein Bank and sat on their board for three decades as the bank grew in the northwest Houston area. Upon the sale of the operations of his business and the sale of the bank, he was blessed to make a large donation to his Alma Mater, Sam Houston State University. Presently, the new SHSU Alumni Building bears his name.

In 2003, his wife Mary Ellen died after a long battle with kidney disease. Being a widower was a position he was not cut out for and with grace and good fortune, he reconnected with his Humble High School sweetheart, Judith Ann (Reed) Hines. She was also a widower, and the two began spending time together. They married in 2004 with the support of both families. They would spend the rest of his life together and lived happily in the Walden and Montgomery, Texas area where they were members of April Sound Church. They traveled extensively with friends and enjoyed time with their children and grandchildren.

He is preceded by Mary Ellen Ragsdale. He is survived by wife, Judith Ann Ragsdale, daughters Georgia and Laura Ragsdale, grandson Vincent Ragsdale and step grandson Robert Wahlman. He is survived by his step children, Mark and Robin Hines, Wes and Jane (Hines) Thornton, Nancy Hines, and Wade and Frances Hines and his step grandchildren Kristen, David and Kayla Hines; Matthew, Amanda and Meridith Thornton; Christopher and Tiffani Pinales; Hannah and Andy Wicklund.

A memorial service and reception immediately to follow will be held:

Saturday, December 7th, 2024

11:00AM Service, Reception 12:15PM

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home\*

10129 FM 1097

Willis, TX 77318

(\*Please make note of the Willis location, this company has several other locations)

A link to the livestream is listed below.

<https://client.tribucast.com/tcid/a24128895737183>

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in his name to:

Mercy Ships

Mercyships.org

Mercy Ships

P.O. Box 2020

Garden Valley, TX 75771

# Previous Events

## Memorial Celebration

DEC 7. 11:00 AM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Willis  
10129 FM 1097 Rd W.  
Willis, TX 77318

*Reception 12:15 PM*

# Tribute Wall



“ *Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home created a Live Stream Link in memory of John Robert Ragsdale*



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**Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home** - December 06, 2024 at 12:20 PM



“ *Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John Robert Ragsdale*



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**Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home** - December 06, 2024 at 11:48 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Robert Ragsdale.*

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December 06, 2024 at 09:10 AM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of John Robert Ragsdale.*



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December 06, 2024 at 09:10 AM



“ *Lori Martin, Missouri purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of John Robert Ragsdale.*



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**Lori Martin, Missouri** - December 05, 2024 at 01:27 PM



“ *Bill and Diane Donahoe planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Robert Ragsdale.*

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**Bill and Diane Donahoe** - December 04, 2024 at 02:53 PM



“ *Bill and Diane Donahoe purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Robert Ragsdale.*



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**Bill and Diane Donahoe** - December 04, 2024 at 02:53 PM

JC

“ Jeanette Cobb purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Robert Ragsdale.



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**Jeanette Cobb** - December 02, 2024 at 01:40 PM

JC

“ John was one of the kindest people I have ever known. He was my customer as well as my very dear friend. He often talked about his girls and how proud he was of them. He will be missed by many. My deepest sympathy to his family.

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**JEANETTE COBB** - December 02, 2024 at 01:34 PM

MB

“ Mike & Linda Brummerhop purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of John Robert Ragsdale.



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**Mike & Linda Brummerhop** - December 02, 2024 at 01:25 PM

PS

“ Paul Sitahal planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Robert Ragsdale.

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**Paul Sitahal** - November 19, 2024 at 03:26 PM