



Norman Ward

October 7, 1931 - April 18, 2025

Norman Ward, 93, a Huntsville business and civic leader and founder of the Huntsville Men's Choir, passed away peacefully on Good Friday, April 18, 2025. Born October 7, 1931, to John Henry Ward and Cassie Ward, Norman grew up in Beaumont, Texas, where he learned baseball, a lifelong passion, pitching batting practice for the Beaumont Exporters, a New York Yankees AA farm club. He received a music education degree from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, where he met and married a fellow student, June Hardy, before joining the U.S. Army in 1954. Stationed in Germany, Norman worked as a radar specialist and pitched for the Fourth Army baseball team, making its All-Star roster. Returning to the states after his tour of duty, Norman received his master's in Choral Conducting from Baylor University on the G.I. bill and taught at Ector Junior High in Odessa, Texas. Norman and June moved to Huntsville after June's father encouraged them to join his furniture business. In 1965, Norman and June took ownership of Hardy Furniture. In 1985 the store moved to the old Plaza Hotel building and became Ward Furniture.

Named the Huntsville Item's "Citizen of the Year" in 2001, Norman dedicated his life to serving the community he loved. A member of the Chamber of Commerce Board and the Huntsville Independent School Board, Norman taught Sunday school at First Baptist Church, where he served as a Deacon and had several stints as its Interim Minister of Music. In 1992, Norman formed the Huntsville Men's Choir, which grew from 13 to 65 members,

including many U.S. military veterans, and performed under Norman's leadership with the Sam Houston State University Men's and Women's Choirs, for two Houston Astros games and at the Houston opening of Ken Burns' documentary, "The War." Fiercely dedicated to preserving the memory of veterans' contributions, Norman was instrumental in the development of the HEARTS Veterans Museum, served three terms on its Board and worked to prepare the site for the 2022 installation of the Vietnam War Memorial replica. Norman was preceded in death by his siblings Carl, Thelma, Byron and Bernice. He is survived by June Ward, his wife of 71 years; son David Ward (Jackie Ward), daughter Laura Ward (David Newmann), and grandchildren Scottie Lynn Ward, Madison Lee Ward, Emma Ward Newmann and Joseph Hardy Newmann.

A visitation will be held on Saturday, May 31, 2025 at 10:00 AM and a memorial service following at 11:00 AM at First Baptist Church of Huntsville. Donations in Norman's memory may be made to the HEARTS Veterans Museum.

Memorial condolences may be made to the family at www.shmfh.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **31**. 10:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church Huntsville
1229 Ave J
Huntsville, TX 77340

Memorial Service

MAY **31**. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church Huntsville
1229 Ave J
Huntsville, TX 77340

Tribute Wall



“ Sending love to the family and all those who loved and was loved by Mr. Ward
Denyce & family



Denyce Graves - May 30, 2025 at 03:50 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Norman Ward.



May 30, 2025 at 03:02 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Norman Ward.

May 30, 2025 at 03:02 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Norman Ward.



May 14, 2025 at 05:18 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Norman Ward.

May 14, 2025 at 05:18 PM



“ We will keep the Ward Family in our thoughts and prayers. He will be missed by many friends and family members.

Tom and Lynda Henry

Lynda Henry - April 28, 2025 at 08:37 PM



“ So many fond memories of Norman as a friend, businessman and musician.

Gregory Gathright - April 26, 2025 at 03:40 PM



“ I sang in the church choir with Norman and June for many years. Loved every minute of it. Norman was the backbone of the choir and June's beautiful voice was like velvet. Sending my deepest condolences to the entire Ward family.

Beverly Stewart - April 25, 2025 at 10:26 AM

MF

“ *Lifting up the family and friends of Norman Ward for comfort, strength, and healing from our Lord Jesus Christ. June, David & Jackie, and family, I met Norman just a few days moving to Huntsville in the 80's and we visited many of times. Norman was an outstanding community supporter and follower of his Lord. But most of all Norman expressed his love for his family in our conversations which I admired of him. His wisdom and caring which impressed me. Norman will be missed by many but we all will meet again with our Lord.*



Marvin Hyvl & Family - April 24, 2025 at 10:54 AM

RH

“ *Norman was a great guy. Gave a lot to the community. A life well-lived.*

Rich Heiland - April 24, 2025 at 09:59 AM

MW

“ *Mr. Ward was one of the nicest men in Huntsville.*



Mellicent Wiley - April 24, 2025 at 09:38 AM

GK

“ *Gayle Kelly lit a candle in memory of Norman Ward*



Gayle Kelly - April 23, 2025 at 09:23 PM

DH

“ *A wonderful, kind man.*

David Henderson - April 23, 2025 at 07:49 PM