



## William (Bill) Vance Nash

January 1, 1929 - July 23, 2011

William (Bill) Vance Nash Past Huntsville Mayor and businessman, William (Bill) Vance Nash died July 19, 2011 at his home surrounded by his family. He was 82 years old and spent many of those years doing exactly what he dreamed of doing when he was a boy of seven sitting across from his mother helping to draw the plans for their new home. He came to Huntsville in 1968 and began Nash Construction Company. He was a problem solver, a civic leader and a builder and became an integral part of the Huntsville community through the years. Bill was born in Rusk, Texas in 1929 to Oscar and Lela Nash. He graduated valedictorian of Cayuga High School at fifteen years old and came to Huntsville on a basketball scholarship to Sam Houston State Teachers College in the fall of 1945. He made the starting team along with older, much more experienced, returning military veterans and was nicknamed by Coach "Puny" Wilson as "the kid." After two years in pre-engineering classes at Sam, he transferred to the University of Texas where he received his degree in Architectural Engineering in 1950. During the Korean War, Bill served four years in the Air force and was fortunate to be able to use his engineering skills and knowledge in all his assignments. Bill was selected to attend Officer Candidates School (OCS) at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. Under the intense pressures of OCS he developed his habit of reviewing problems and considering solutions after the lights went out. He maintained this practice all his life. He graduated OCS in December 1951 as a 2nd Lt., and was assigned to Griffis Air Force Base in Rome, New York. At this

time, early 1952, with the jet aircraft becoming more prevalent, there was a need for facilities to test materials at much more extreme temperatures and to test components under these new conditions. Griffis, being a research and development base, was chosen to house this laboratory. At 23 years old, Bill was designated representative of the Air Force and the chief inspector in the conversion of the existing lab building into the needed facility. He received from the Commanding General of Griffis Air Force Base and from the Chief Engineer of Lenox, commendations of his work with this project. This led him to his next assignment as the Base Engineering Officer at Bitburg Air Force Base in Germany, where he would oversee the completion of one of three strategic bases being constructed at that crucial time in the cold war. He again received recognition for his work and for completing the project six months ahead of schedule and six months before the other two bases were completed. Following his military years, one of his civilian projects was to work on support facilities for missile sites all over the United States where he implemented the Critical Path Method into building construction. "I was personally very proud to have been the construction manager of the pilot project on which Critical Path Method (CPM) was used. The significance of that experience was not realized until several years later. Within just a few years after the pilot, every engineering school in the United States was using CPM. Some fifteen years after the pilot project, the system was computerized. CPM is now taught in Business School Management courses as well as Engineering and Architectural schools." Bill fell in love with Una Grace Glazener whom he met in Fairfield, TX where his family moved in 1946. The couple married in 1952 and recently celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary on June 15th. After their years with the Military, they lived in Houston and Lubbock before choosing Huntsville in 1968 to start his own business. Many local, commercial buildings still in use were built by Nash Construction Company including the post office on 10th Street, Huntsville City Hall and the SHSU Health Center. The company built all over East Texas from Galveston to Beaumont, Jasper, Lufkin, Livingston, Conroe and Palestine. He

immersed himself in community affairs in Huntsville. Bill and Una Grace joined the First United Methodist Church where he served on many boards and committees. He was appointed director of the Huntsville Housing Authority; he served on the board of Huntsville National Bank for many years; and he was elected president of the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce in 1980. He served as Mayor of Huntsville from 1981-1985. He was chair of the Building and Grounds Committee for the Wynne Home and the Cultural Activities Foundation. Rotary was a vital part of his life since 1969. He served as president of the Rotary Club of Huntsville in 1971-72, and District Governor of the Larger East Texas District in 1990-91. Golf was a favorite sport, and he continued playing it throughout his life. He was elected the first president of the Elkin's Lake Men's Golf Association, and was always proud of having won first place at the grand opening Elkin's Lake golf tournament. Because of his interest in SHSU sports, Bill supported their baseball team and traveled as a sponsor with the golf team. He was instrumental in forming one of the early Bearkat Clubs that was established to promote the involvement and relationship between Huntsville citizens and all the sports programs at SHSU. He coached and sponsored many girls' sports teams over the years including the Nash Tornadoes where daughters Grace and Claire played on the team and Juliana was assistant coach. Bill also enjoyed sailing with his friends and family. Docking under sails without the motor was one of his favorite memories. In recent years, he's spent much of his time on his interests of water color painting and genealogical research. Many of his paintings are of the ancestral sites of his MacKinnon family forebears on the Isle of Skye in Scotland. After hours of research he wrote a book that traces the Nash family back through eleven generations to the first William Nash who came from England to Virginia in 1635. Bill devoted much energy and thought to his family and friends and will be remembered for his dedication, support, love and humor. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Una Grace Nash of Huntsville; sister and brother-in-law, Dixie and Donald Thornton of

Waterwood; daughters, Juliana Nash Woodall of Austin, TX, Grace Nash Meeks (David Meeks) of Sonoma, CA, and Amanda Claire Brummé (Philip Brummé) of Sonoma, CA; grandchildren, Christiana Philastre (Joe Philastre), Kenna Woodall, Calla Woodall, Delaney Brummé, and Lachlan Brummé; great-grandchild Madeleine Philastre; and many nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, July 23rd at the First United Methodist Church of Huntsville.

Visitation hours are scheduled from 5-7 pm on Friday, July 22nd at the Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the First United Methodist Church, 1016 Sam Houston Avenue, Huntsville, Texas 77320 for the new Ella Smither Geriatric Center. Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at [www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *William (Bill) Vance Nash*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *My condolences to Claire, Grace and the entire Nash family. Mr. Nash was an exceptional man and asset to Huntsville and of course our neighborhood. He will be greatly missed. God bless you all.*

**Jimmy Marks** - September 14, 2011 at 12:18 AM



“ *Please know that we are saddened by the loss of such a wonderful man and a great supporter to our community. Please know that you and the family are in our thoughts and prayers in the days ahead. God Bless.*

**Dale & Donna Story** - July 28, 2011 at 01:37 PM



“ *Una Grace and family, I am so sorry to hear about Bill. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you all. I had planned to come to the services, but I am still at work and have two appointments tomorrow I couldn't change. I did so want to see you. Call or email me please! My cell is 512.755.0436. Our love, Jeanette, Bob, and Andrew*

**Jeanette Glazener Martin** - July 22, 2011 at 08:34 PM

AS

“ Dear Una Grace, Julianna, Grace and Claire,  
This is such a loss for your wonderful family. I know, though, that the rest of your lives will be filled with the lessons Bill taught you and the love he gave to you and to our community.

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**Anne Sigler** - July 22, 2011 at 05:37 PM

JD

“ What a sad day for us all! I have such wonderful childhood memories of both Bill and Una Grace Nash. Mr. Nash coached me in softball for several years; what a positive role model he was for us all. He had a great sense of humor, a calm demeanor, and a focus on good sportsmanship. I am so very sorry for your loss. We'll be thinking of you all.

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**Johanna (Mattingly) Debrecht** - July 22, 2011 at 04:19 PM

HB

“ 21July2011 brooklynNY

*Bill Nash,*

*father, husband, civic leader,  
creative problem solver, patriot,  
texan, friend.*

*i know Bill Nash(Mr. Nash)  
via his architect daughter  
Amanda Claire; synthesis of loving parents:  
mother& father, passion, elegance, determination,  
provocation,acute analytical skill&execution,  
subtle humor, warm heart.*

*there is a vacuousness with Bill's death,  
an absence in our temporal corporal lives...*

*in&through, Amanda Claire, Grace&Juliana  
all those they have &will touch 'Bill' dwells  
&persist in the ways of his giving s.*

*Una Grace and her pride, our deep dear  
warm thoughts, prayers, &love...a life well lived  
&much given.*

*sincere condolences.  
ever yours,*

*-harry4*

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**harry edmund bolick** - July 22, 2011 at 03:41 PM

KF

“ I am so sorry for your loss. What a life of service Mr. Nash had! I have always admired him and Mrs. Nash. They were truly a model couple in our community. I pray for peace for each of you in your own feelings and needs. What a comfort for all of you to know your precious one is in the arms of our Lord for all eternity. Love and hold on to one another.

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**Kay Nabors Fountain** - July 22, 2011 at 02:55 PM

TH

“ *Juliana:*  
We were so sad to hear the news about your Dad passing away. Your family has always been wonderful and so involved in the community and our church. Our prayers and thoughts are with you today.  
Lots of love,  
Lynda Lanier Henry

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**Tom and Lynda Henry** - July 22, 2011 at 08:40 AM

CJ

“ *What a pleasure to have experienced friendship with Bill Nash. He was truly "one of a kind". Our prayers go out to you, Una Grace, and all the family. We love you!*

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**Carolyn & Bob Jamail** - July 21, 2011 at 09:46 PM

JD

“ I just want to take this opportunity to thank Mr. and Mrs. Nash for always providing a loving, accepting, fun environment for all of us kids who grew up together. When I think of truly lovely people, Bill and Una Grace Nash leap to the forefront of my mind. Knowing all of you has been a blessing to me. I can only imagine how much you will miss him. But we will see him again!  
With much love,  
Jill (Jimbo would have said the same thing!)

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**Jill and Jimbo Driscoll** - July 21, 2011 at 11:27 AM

DE

“ Bill Nash was beyond description. His contributions to Huntsville and Walker County are so many to quantify that it makes it difficult to pinpoint any one thing. He was a true leader and visionary for the City and it was sheer joy to work with him. Our sincere condolences to Mrs. Nash and the family. He served in grace and he left in grace as the gentleman he was.

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**Dana and Doug Eckles** - July 20, 2011 at 11:25 PM

MS

“ Dear ones, we are so sorry to learn about Bill's death. I loved you both so very much and remember how much fun you two added to my life. His presence here will be missed so much. I love you. Mary Elizabeth and family.

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**Mary & Ernest Shelton** - July 20, 2011 at 09:56 PM

TH

“ Grace, I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your father. Our thoughts and prayers go out for you and your family at this time. Your dad was an amazing man. Mom and I are out of town this weekend so we are sending lots of love and prayers your way

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**Tracy Coleman Hilton** - July 20, 2011 at 05:48 PM

DG

“ I was so sad to hear about your loss. I was lucky to get to know Bill throughout my years of friendship with Juliana and spending time at your home. It was obvious that he loved his family dearly and I know he will be missed. My love to all.

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**Dixie Gray** - July 20, 2011 at 02:04 PM

BN

“ Our condolences to the family as you go through this hard time. Just know Bill is in a better place now. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

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**Burl and Kathy Nash** - July 20, 2011 at 10:26 AM

MF

“ We are sorry to hear of your loss. You will be in our thoughts & prayers.

*Mellicent, Bobby II, Heather & Jason, Heath, Justin & Joanna Wiley*

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**Mellicent Wiley & Family** - July 20, 2011 at 09:26 AM

GN

“ Bill & Una Grace have come to mean so much to us these past 10 years as we've been blessed by his knowledge of the Nash Family history. Our hearts go out to the family. You will be in our thoughts and prayers.

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**Gerald "Butch" & Molly Nash** - July 19, 2011 at 09:13 PM

GG

“ Bill was a wonderful friend, always positive and supportive. One of Huntsville's great citizens who will be truly missed.

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**Greg and Dani Gathright** - July 19, 2011 at 09:02 PM

RH

“ So sorry to hear of the passing of a true gentleman who was devoted to his city. Our prayers and sympathies go to Una Grace and the family.

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**Rich and Connie Heiland** - July 19, 2011 at 07:10 PM

NJ

“ So very sorry for your loss. Norma Dell Jones of Lovelady.

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**Norma Dell & Jerry D. Jones** - July 19, 2011 at 06:12 PM

PC

*Una Grace and daughters; I am so sorry for your loss. I was in North Texas with you and loved our friendship. My Bill designed your home, won an award for the design; it is wonderful to find out that one of your daughters became an architect.. Love to each of you. We got to spend a week-end with you in that beautiful home among the trees sitting room. Love, Pat Marshall Cantrell*

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**Pat Marshall Cantrell** - March 06, 2022 at 11:42 AM