



Donald Ennis Robbins

February 19, 1926 - September 1, 2012

Donald Ennis Robbins was born on February 19, 1926 in Indianapolis, IN to Wilbur Otto and Katherine (Wert) Robbins. He died on September 1, 2012 at the age of 86 after a brief illness. He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Hazel Yeager. He was an outstanding athlete, playing basketball at both the collegiate and professional levels. He also played for the Army team when he served his country during World War Two. He attended the University of Kentucky, Purdue University, the University of Idaho and Hardin College, receiving his Bachelor of Science degree from Hardin in 1949. He received a Master of Science degree in 1953 from Butler University and did advanced graduate study at the University of Texas and Butler University. He chose a career in education, working as a teacher, coach and ultimately an administrator. In the late 50s, he ran the school for employees of Gulf Oil in Venezuela, and then returned to the US, where he became a civil rights pioneer in the 60s and 70s, specializing in the integration of segregated school districts. He was the Superintendent of Wilmer-Hutchins ISD, Diboll ISD, Fannindale ISD and Calvert ISD. He also served on the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Education and consulted throughout his life with the Texas Education Agency to help increase the quality of education for all Texans. He worked tirelessly until his retirement in 82 from the Calvert School District, although he remained an ardent fan of their athletic teams until his death. He was a 32nd degree Mason and was also involved in his community through the Scottish Rite, American Legion, Rotary Club and Lions Club, and was

always quick to lend a hand to those in need. On June 30, 1966, he and Doris Nell Hightower were married in Laredo. They lived in Rockdale the past five years and was formerly of Hearne. He was a member of St. John's United Methodist Church. He is survived by his wife, Dot Robbins; his four children, Mary Ann Ward of Hearne, Texas, David Bradshaw of Littleton, Colorado, Matt Bradshaw of Spicewood, Texas and Paul Bradshaw of San Jose, California; their spouses, Richard Ward, Leslie Bradshaw, Marcy Bradshaw and Stacey Smith; eight grandchildren, Sara Brower, Joshua Hall, Beth Skelley, Ross Bradshaw, Haley Hensley, Andrew Bradshaw, Ben Bradshaw and Spencer Smith; and four great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Marjorie Murray, his niece Paula Cox, His nephew Rob Murray, his in-laws Mary Jo and Tom Coffield and extended family in Indiana. The family would like to thank the team at Scott and White Hospital in Temple for their outstanding care. A memorial will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 6, at St. John's United Methodist Church in Rockdale, with Pastor Rita Sims officiating. Burial will be private.

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Ennis Robbins*

Mary Helen Seago - September 06, 2012 at 10:16 AM



“ *Donald Ennis Robbins*

Volney L. (Bubba) Alston III - September 05, 2012 at 10:02 AM