MEMORIALS

BYRON KEITH LOVELACE

Lovelace, 87, of Missouri City, died March 3, 2022. He received his law degree from South Texas College of Law and was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1978. Lovelace was in private practice from 1980 to 2021. He was an assistant governor and lieutenant governor of the Rotary International District 5890 and was a director, vice chair, and chair-elect of the Greater Southwest Houston Chamber of Commerce. Lovelace is remembered for his dedication to his clients, having several longstanding employees he viewed as family, and his commitment to community involvement. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Sandra Daniel Lovelace; son, Kirk Daniel Lovelace; daughters, Bethany Howell and Amy Dawson; and six grandchildren.

DAVID WEST

West, 84, of Clear Lake, died August 27, 2020. He received his law degree from South Texas College of Law and was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1974. West was in private practice for several years before being appointed by Gov. Bill Clements as state district judge in 1983. In 1984, he was elected state district judge for the 269th District Court, later was the Harris County chief administrative judge, and returned to private practice in 1997. Before his life in law, West was an electrical engineer with the Douglas Aircraft Company in Newport Beach, California, becoming head of the environmental system for Skylab, the first U.S. space station launched by NASA. He is remembered for his fairness, love of boat building, and traveling the world. West is survived by his wife of 50 years, Gayle; daughters, Melissa Parker and Julie Scott; sons, Michael, Glenn, and Blake; 13 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

EDWIN HENRY FRANK JR.

Frank, 100, of Houston, died January 2, 2022. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II (1942 to 1945). Frank received his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law and was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1948. He practiced law in Houston, specializing in real property, and founded the law firm that would later become Frank, Elmore, Lievens, Slaughter & Turet. Frank was chair of the American Bar Association Committee on Condominium and Cooperative Apartments and chair of the State Bar of Texas General Practice Section; was active in church, serving as deacon of the River Oaks Baptist Church for over 60 years and helping found the River Oaks Baptist School; and was awarded for his military service, receiving the American Campaign and Asiatic Pacific Theater Victory medals and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon. He is remembered for his love of visiting with his family in Galveston and socializing at the Artillery and Galveston Country Clubs. Frank is survived by his sons, Edwin H. Frank III, Graham Frank Neuhau, and Thomas McGehee Frank; seven grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

GÉRALD EMILE PITCHFORD

Pitchford, 85, of Santa Fe, New Mexico, died February 18, 2021. He served in the U.S. Marines for four years. Pitchford received his law degree from South Texas College of Law and was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1966. He worked for the U.S. Defense Department Audit Agency; worked for the U.S. Agency for International Development; and was a staff consultant on the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives for 18 years, with a specialty in 20 countries in Africa. Pitchford is remembered for his love of travel, which began with a trip to Machu Picchu. He is survived by his wife, Yara; brother, James Pitchford; and sister, Judy Pitchford Bartley.

ROCKY LITTLE

Little, 66, of Fort Worth, died May 7, 2022. He received his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law and was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1987. Little was an attorney with the Wester Company of North America from 1987 to 1990, Kraus Ramirez & Little from 1990 to 2000, Hensley Fowler Hepworth & Schwartz from 2001 to 2003, and Fanning Harper Martinson Brandt & Kutchin from 2004 to 2022. He was certified in personal injury trial law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in 1999. Little is remembered for his intelligence, joy for life, and love of all things Texan. He is survived by his sisters.
Vernon taught math in Louisiana and Texas from 1963 to 1981 and was in-house counsel to Arco Inc. and National Oilwell in Houston from 1981 to 1989. She was appointed by Gov. George W. Bush to the Brazos River Authority Board of Directors and elected in 1999 as the board’s first elected female president, was chair of the Coryell County Republican Party, and was a full-time ranch hand. Vernon is survived by her husband, Leon; son, Wayne Caskey; daughter, Ellen Bedingfield; and brothers, Bob Cruikshank, Tom Cruikshank, and Bill Cruikshank.

JUDITH C. VERNON

CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL FOSTEL

Fostel, 47, of Odessa, died March 24, 2022. He received his law degree from Texas Wesleyan School of Law and was admitted to the Texas Bar in 2001.

Fostel was an assistant district attorney in Cooke County and Ector County and was in private practice with Chris Fostel Attorney at Law. He is remembered as a loving and devoted husband and father; enjoying spending time in the cool mountain air of Ruidoso, New Mexico, and Lake Bridgeport with his family and friends; and loving to debate politics and listen to Texas country music until the early hours. Fostel is survived by his wife of 12 years, Gabby Fostel; son, Wyatt Fostel; daughter, Eden Fostel; mother, Cheryl Fostel; and brother, Josh Fostel.

JERRY C. GILMORE

Gilmore, 88, of Dallas, died March 30, 2022. He received his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law and was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1957. Gilmore practiced law with Green Gilmore Crutcher Rothpletz & Burke, Vial Hamilton Koch & Knox, and Shannon Gracey Ratliff & Miller and served as the city attorney with the cities of Murphy, DeSoto, Flower Mound, Cockrell Hill, and Buckingham. He was president of the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, received the Justinian Award from the Dallas Lawyers Auxiliary in recognition of his outstanding dedication to volunteer service benefiting the community of Dallas, and received the Distinguished Health Service Award from the Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council. Gilmore is remembered for his love of music, spending time with his family, and running in the great outdoors. He is survived by his wife of 13 years, Janie Means; sons, attorney Daniel B. Gilmore and Charles A. Gilmore; daughter, Susan L. Moore; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

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JOHN F. SCHAFFER III

Schaffer, 81, of Houston, died April 20, 2022. He received his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law and was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1965. Schaffer was in private practice as a civil trial specialist. He is remembered for his love of woodworking and soccer. Schaffer is survived by his son, John F. Schaffer IV; daughter, Lisa S. Hickey; sister, Lilliyanne Cowherd-Moody; and two grandchildren.

RHONDA JOHNSON BYRD

Byrd, 68, of Arlington, died March 27, 2022. She received her law degree from Louisiana State University and was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1980. Byrd was in private practice in Austin from 1980 to 1983; in-house attorney with Travelers Insurance in Dallas from 1983 to 1985; a partner in Thompson, Coe, Cousins, and Irons in Dallas from 1985 to 2000; taught trial advocacy at Southern Methodist University School of Law for 10 years; and represented both national and international clients, including Fortune 500 Companies. Byrd served on the Texas Bar Journal Board of Editors, on several Dallas Bar Association committees, and as a faculty member and instructor for the Texas Association of Defense Counsel Trial Academy, where she taught practicing attorneys how to further develop their trial skills. She was certified in personal injury trial law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and as a mediator by the National Health Lawyers' Association/American Academy of Healthcare Attorneys. Along with her career in the law, she is also remembered as an accomplished painter, photographer, writer, chef, and traveler. Byrd is survived by her husband of 45 years, John Byrd; son, John Byrd Jr.; two granddaughters, Siena and Simone Byrd; sister, Theresa Johnson Miller; and brother; Russell Johnson.

PAUL ANTHONY D’ALOISIO

D’Aloisio, 69, of Allen, died April 19, 2022. He received his law degree from State University of New York, Buffalo and was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1986. D’Aloisio was a member of the Washington, D.C.; Massachusetts; and Washington State bars. He was an associate of Taylor & Bryan in Seattle from June 1982 to August 1983; an associate of Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue in Dallas from November 1985 to April 1988; an associate of Stoel Rives Boley Jones & Grey in Seattle from April 1988 to March 1991; a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., from April 1991 to January 1992; and a litigation attorney with Short Cressman & Burgess in Seattle from February 1995 to September 1996. D’Aloisio published two articles in the Public Contract Law Journal: “Accusations of Criminal Conduct by Government Contractors” and “Design Responsibility of Government Contractors.” He is remembered for working on projects and assignments with his sons when they were young and helping coach their various sports teams, being a huge sports fan, and loving outdoor activities with his family. D’Aloisio is survived by his wife, Leanne D’Aloisio; sons, Anthony D’Aloisio and Greyson D’Aloisio; and sisters, Mary Flowers and Carmela D’Aloisio.