



# **Billy Wilson Hoffmann**

SEP 21, 1927 - DEC 14, 2016



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## **Billy Wilson Hoffmann**

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**B**orn in Hearne, Texas, on September 21, 1927, weighing 9¼ lbs. with blond hair and blue eyes, BILLY WILSON HOFFMANN, was the second son of John Richard & Eila Mae Wilson Hoffmann of Longview, Texas, who met while John Richard was playing professional baseball for the Longview Cannibals. Billy was preceded in death by his older brother, John Bodie “J.B.” Hoffmann, and his younger sister, Jo Ann Hoffmann, Metcalf, also of Longview Texas. Billy attended the Longview Public Schools graduating in 1944 following which he attended Kilgore Junior College, thanks to a Rotary Club Scholarship. His studies were interrupted by his enlistment in the U.S. Navy in 1945. He served initially until 1946, when he was transferred to the inactive reserve thus which allowed him to return to Kilgore and finish his studies, graduating in 1947 with an Associate Degree. Upon graduation, Billy was hired by the Willow Springs office of the Gulf Oil Corporation, but seeing his abilities and potential, Gulf soon transferred him to their Houston Texas headquarters, where he met a Southside Houston beauty, Patsy Ruth Kirk, the daughter of the R D Kirk family, who also worked for Gulf. In 1950, Bill and Pat got married in the University Methodist Church in West University Place and they were happily married for 46 years until death claimed his beloved Pat in 1996. In 1951 as a result of the Korean War, Billy was recalled to active duty by the US Navy and served aboard the USS Wantuck, APD 125 until July, 1954. Following his return home, he continued his education at the University of Houston, graduating with a B.S. in Industrial Engineering in 1958. Following that he attended night school at the University of Houston Law School for a time but to his lifelong regret, did not finish due to the difficulties of juggling his career with Gulf and his family life. In 1964, Bill and Pat adopted their only child, Christina Beth, and in 1967, the family moved to Jasper, Texas, where Bill took on Tax and Title duties for Southwestern Timber Company, which was acquired by Temple Industries and eventually became a



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subsidiary of Time, Inc. During his 13 years there, he also did double duty as a lobbyist, working at the state level with members of the Texas Legislature, as well as at the national level with members of Congress promoting the interests of the Timber Industry. In 1979, Bill accepted a partnership with Truett Pritchard, moving the family to Kingwood, Texas and then later to Austin when the company relocated there. Bill left there in 1985 and he and Pat returned to Houston where he worked as a self-employed Professional Engineer until he accepted a job offer from Texaco, Inc. An expected twoyear period of employment with Texaco turned into 13 years with the last three under Contract Service. Following his wife's death, upon his retirement, Bill moved to Carrollton, Texas in 2000 to be near his cherished daughter, Christina and only grandson, George William. With most of his family waiting for him in Heaven, he is survived by his daughter, Christina G. Kett, his son-in-law, Mark H. Kett, and his grandson, George W. Givaudan, as well as numerous nieces and nephews and many very good friends.



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