



# Clyde Vernon Hartline Jr.

NOV 5, 1944 - JUL 13, 2020



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## **Clyde Vernon Hartline Jr.**

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**C**lyde Vernon Hartline, Jr., a long time-time Dallas lawyer, went home to be with the Lord on Monday, July 13, 2020 at the age of 75. Vernon was born November 5, 1944 in Dallas, Texas to Clyde Vernon Hartline and Betty Angel Hartline. After graduating from Plano Senior High School in 1963, he attended Baylor University and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1968. Vernon married Lynne Thompson on September 3, 1966. During his first year of law school at Baylor Law, Vernon was drafted and served in the U.S. Army as a First Lieutenant in Vietnam. After being injured in combat in early 1971, he was medevaced to the Air Force Military Hospital in Okinawa, Japan, where he recuperated for several months. He was discharged and came back to Texas in April of 1971, and just days after arriving home, he returned to Baylor Law to finish his law degree. During law school he was a member of the Order of the Barristers. After Vernon was graduated from Baylor Law in 1973, he joined Gardere, Porter & DeHay, where he began his career as a trial lawyer. After a merger in 1979, Vernon and several of his colleagues formed DeHay & Blanchard. Vernon continued his career as a trial lawyer with Strasburger & Price beginning in 1984. In 1994, he and several colleagues in the firm's product liability group decided to form their own firm, Hartline, Dacus, Dreyer, & Kern, L.L.P., to provide services to their clients more efficiently and effectively. At the prior firm they had been told, "Big ships turn slowly," so Vernon and his colleagues vowed be nimble, able to adjust their sails to meet their clients' needs while providing the highest quality legal services. It was that commitment that carried Vernon through to his last day with his colleagues at Hartline Barger, LLP, on July 13, 2020.

Vernon loved practicing law and being in the courtroom. His distinguished career as a product liability defense lawyer was highlighted by successes in the automotive and tire industry, which led to the firm's representation of several major automotive and tire manufacturers on a regional and national basis. He also selflessly trained young lawyers, many of which started their careers at



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Hartline Barger LLP and have become his partners. He genuinely cared about the firm and its people, and he took time each day to reach out to his partners, colleagues, and staff.

Vernon and Lynne were members of Park Cities Baptist Church, where they spent 27 years working on Sunday mornings in the church nursery. They loved to travel and explore the world; from the Red Sea to the Caribbean, Vernon and Lynne traveled the world pursuing their passion for scuba diving,

and he captured his underwater explorations with high-definition video cameras. Their globetrotting hobby – along with frequent business trips – made him an expert packer. “I can live out of a roller bag for a week because my wife and daughter needed my luggage allowance”, he said. Vernon also loved cooking and taking care of his family and friends.

Vernon served as President of the Baylor Law Alumni Association from 1993-1994, and was frequently designated a “Best Lawyer,” “Lawyer of the Year,” and “Texas Super Lawyer” during his career. He also received the Bridgestone Firestone General Counsel Award. Among Vernon’s many honors and awards are the National Defense Service Medal; the Vietnam Service Medal; the Vietnam Campaign Medal; and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Vernon was preceded in death by his parents Clyde and Betty Hartline and his brother Douglas Hartline. He is survived by his beloved wife, Lynne, of 53 years, who was the love of his life; son Clyde Vernon Hartline, III of Portland, Oregon; daughter Nikki Lynne Braun and husband John of Midland, Texas; precious grandchildren Daphne, Conrad, Carlyle and Sebastian Hartline; and nieces Jehri Lyn Crowe of Birmingham, Alabama; Amy Riggs Newell of Tallahassee, Florida; and Meredith Mathis of Temple, Texas, and their families.

The family thanks Vernon’s oncologist, Dr. Brian Berryman, M.D., and his internist, Dr. Jennifer Wilkinson, M.D., and the staff of Texas Oncology at Baylor Medical Center for their guidance and care over the last few years. Vernon lived and died fighting for the causes and people he loved, and they helped Vernon stay in the fight longer than expected. Vernon was a fierce defender of his family and friends, and you always knew where you stood with him.

In lieu of flowers, Vernon would want to be remembered with donations to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (lls.org), Wounded Warrior Family Support (wwfs.org); and the Salvation



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Army (salvationarmyusa.org). Donations may also be made to the endowed scholarship in Vernon's name at Baylor Law, established by Hartline Barger LLP to honor their beloved partner.

A celebration of Vernon's life will be held Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 2 p.m. at Restland Funeral Home in Dallas, Texas. Due to local restrictions on

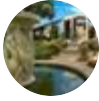
public gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic, those wishing to participate may live-stream the service by connecting through <http://webcast.funeralvue.com/events/viewer/33489>.



## Tribute Wall

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**Restland Funeral Home And Cemetery** shared a **Webcast Video**.



July 20 at 11:35 AM



**Dixie Berry Boley** posted:

I think that I was Vernon's first and probably his last divorce case. He had just arrived at Strasburger & Price. He took over from another attorney in the firm. He did a good job for me and it was a difficult case. We went to court under Theo Badard. She gave me no favors and we were in court about 2 weeks. My thoughts are with you Lynn, as you miss a Good Man. Yours truly, Dixie Berry Boley

August 1 at 10:40 AM



**Todd Tracy** posted:

Vernon and I fought against one another for years representing our respective client. But, even on days where tempers flared, Vernon always made it a point to put aside professional differences. To his core, Vernon was a professional. He was always true to his word. Vernon would call me periodically just to check in since we hadn't had a case recently. I wish our profession had more attorneys like Vernon, because our profession would be better for it.

July 25 at 1:39 AM



**Betty Angel Holland** posted:

Rest in peace vernon, you were a good man. Betty Angel Holland Katy tx

July 24 at 7:42 AM



**Lee Durdin** posted:

I am a supplier to Hartline Barger and I am on site often. Every time I saw Vernon in the hallways or in the break room - EVERY TIME - he had a little story to share or wanted to know my thoughts on some current event. The fact that he took time out of his day to visit with me was always appreciated and speaks to the kind of man he was. Wishing his family and friends peace. Lee Durdin Preferred Business Solutions

July 23 at 6:59 AM



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JF

**Jenni Fann** posted:

I want you to know I watched the live stream. I was so very touched by this service. I have spoken to Vernon a few times when he had called for partner, Marshall Rosenberg. I had only met Vernon once – I made it a point to introduce myself to him at the anniversary party in Dallas last May. He struck me as one of the nicest people. Had the kindest smile and talked to me like we had known each other forever. That stuck with me. I cannot say that I knew him personally, but working for HDBD and now HB I can tell you I am blessed beyond measure to have met him even just ONCE. The way a firm treats their employees trickles down from the top. And he was one of the ones at the top. In more than one way. Blessed beyond words to work for this firm. Thank you again for sharing the stream.

July 21 at 2:04 PM

MS

**Mark & Cathy Stradley** posted:

Cathy and I would often see Vernon at the Abrams Road/Royal Lane Starbucks on Saturday mornings. He would get a drink for Lynne and take it home to her. We'd often chat about legal matters, including the TADC and ABOTA, but mostly we just chatted about life in general. We grew concerned when we didn't see Vernon for a while this year, but just assumed it was due to COVID-19 (the Starbucks was closed for a couple of months). Vernon's reputation as a gifted trial lawyer in a firm of gifted trial lawyers was well known to us, but mostly we'll remember Vernon for his friendly smile and our numerous Saturday morning chats over the years. We'll miss Vernon but are happy for the memories we have. - Mark & Cathy Stradley

July 21 at 11:18 AM

KS

**Kirk Sniff** posted:

Vernon will truly be missed. In addition to being an outstanding trial lawyer, he was - most of all - one of the best friends you could have. Vernon was lots of fun with a wonderful, playful sense of humor and an incredible love of family - both his own and the families of all the people who worked with him. I had the good fortune of working closely with him for 5 years on a huge case in the Panhandle and I can say without reservation that those 5 years were the most enjoyable years in 44 years of practicing law. We will always remember you. -Kirk Sniff

July 21 at 10:05 AM



**Anonymous** sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the Hartline family.



July 21 at 8:39 AM



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EC

**Ed, Meg, Lawson, And Chaz** sent a Gracious Lavender Basket to the Hartline family.

July 19 at 6:27 PM



JH

**Jeannette, Ray, Gail, Denise And Sandy Hartline** sent a Pink Potpourri Bouquet to the Hartline family.

July 19 at 2:50 PM



SG

**Steve Gooch** posted:

Vernon and I were classmates at Baylor in the mid-60's. We spent a lot of time together in Penland Hall during one summer session and I learned that Vernon was passionate about two things--a girl named Lynne at Ouachita University and becoming a lawyer. Years later as next door neighbors, we often visited and Vernon was still passionate about Lynn and being a lawyer. I also learned how much he loved CV and Nikki and his grandchildren and how proud he was of them. For many years Vernon and Lynne taught in the young children's area at Park Cities Baptist and I have fond memories of seeing him "enlightening" the kids. He was my friend and neighbor and a Christian gentleman. Steve Gooch

July 19 at 9:32 AM

BT

**Beth Tiggelaar** posted:

Vernon was always so nice to me, even as a young lawyer. Always a twinkle in his eye. Beth Tiggelaar

July 17 at 8:53 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Florist Choice Bouquet to the Hartline family.

July 17 at 8:38 AM

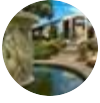




## Media

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July 20 at 11:35 AM





## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Clyde by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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