

Harry Reed

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Harry Lowe Reed
1923-2014

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24
Harry Lowe Reed was born on December 16, 1923 and passed away on November 20, 2014 after a short illness. Born in Houston, TX to Ira and Geneva Reed, he grew up in the Heights area. He was an honor graduate of Reagan High School. He then attended the [University of Texas](#) at Austin, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1943, where he also graduated with honors and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.
Harry was at UT when Pearl Harbor was attacked, and like millions of other young men, he rushed off to join the military. However the Navy told him he would be more valuable with an education, so he went back to school. After completing his bachelors, and OCS in New York, Harry was commissioned as an Ensign, a day he later told his grandson was one of the proudest of his life. The Navy sent him to Mine Warfare School in Yorktown, Va, where the native Texan was so cold that he requested to serve in the Pacific Theater because it was warmer than the North Atlantic. He joined the fleet in spring of 1944 and served as both Mine Warfare Officer and Navigator on a YMS class minesweeper. His ship was a part of the invasion fleets for Kwajalein and Guam, and escorted convoys across the Pacific, defending them from air attack. After a year of service, Harry was promoted to command his own ship and was taking that ship back to the front to join the planned invasion of Japan when the atomic bombs ended the war. He soon left active duty as a Lieutenant JG, though he stayed active in the reserves. His family recently learned that due to a clerical error, he wasn't officially discharged until 2010.

After the war, Harry returned to the University of Texas where he received his law degree in 1948. His scholastic honors include Chancellors, Order of the Coif and Book

Editor of the Texas Law Review.

On August 1, 1948, Harry began his career with Shell Oil Company. He worked there for exactly 37 years, retiring on August 1, 1985 as a General Attorney. In 1952, while working at Shell full time, he became an adjunct professor at South Texas College of Law. Harry loved to teach and taught several different courses over the years, including Constitutional Law and Federal Courts. The day after he retired from Shell in 1985, he became a full time Professor of Law at South Texas. As a full time faculty member, he taught Oil & Gas, Federal Courts and Admiralty. Within two years of being hired full time at the law school, Harry was formally promoted to Vice President and General Counsel, while maintaining a full time teaching load. He worked as General Counsel until 1994, and then returned to that position in 2003. He continued to serve in both roles, carrying out his many duties with an astounding depth of legal knowledge and commitment until just four weeks before his death. He has touched the lives of many students over the years through his teaching, as well as helping students through his generosity to the college. Harry was the longest serving member of the South Texas family and even celebrated his 90th birthday in conjunction with the college's 90th birthday at a celebration in 2013.

From 1953 to 1956, Harry served as a Councilman for the city of Bellaire. He was then elected Mayor of Bellaire in 1956, but his term was cut short by Shell transferring him to New York in 1957. Harry served as Director or President of the Traveler's Aid Society (a United Way Agency) from 1967-1975. He was also a Patron of Wesley Community Center and a Sustaining Life Fellow of the Houston Bar Foundation. He was a member of the American Bar Association, Houston Bar Association, State Bar of Texas and Texas Bar Foundation.

A Methodist his whole life, Harry grew up at Grace United Methodist Church, and then transferred his membership to First United Methodist Church of Houston. It was there that he met the love of his life, Betty Ghiselin, and they married at FUMC in 1949. Over the years, he served the church in countless capacities including Chair of the Administrative Board, Church School Superintendent, Chair of Commission on Education, delegate to Annual Conference and member of the Finance Committee. His love of teaching and his ability to communicate and relate to people was evident as he taught regularly over 50 years for several Sunday School Classes including Questers, Adelphi, Asbury, Pathfinders, Friendship and Logos. One of the highlights while teaching the Questers Class from 1949 to 1954 was helping to create a place where many people found their future spouses. Harry was named Teacher of the Year in the Texas Conference in 1996. He and his wife, Betty, were very involved in the Adelphi Sunday School class from 1959 to the present. It was with this group of people that many good times were had and lifelong friendships were made.

Harry was predeceased by his wife of over sixty years, Betty, who died October 11, 2010. He is survived by son Barry and wife Toni, son Bruce and wife Sharon, son Chris and wife Catherine, and daughter Shirley and husband Scott. He is also survived by seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He was a loving, kind and generous father whose family was his pride and joy.

A Memorial service will be held at First United Methodist Church, 1320 Main St., Houston Texas, 77002, on November 29, 2014 at 10:00am. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to First United

Methodist Church, Houston. Contributions can also be made to the scholarship fund being established in Harry's name by South Texas College of Law, 1303 San Jacinto, Houston, Texas, 77002.

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- See more at:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/houstonchronicle/obituary.aspx?n=harry-reed&pid=173268449#sthash.VdtMU0FD.dpuf>