



Martin B. Woodruff

Martin Bennett Woodruff grew up in Decatur, Texas, and came to the University of Texas at Arlington in September 1966, after graduating from Decatur High School. He joined the Corps, became a member of the Insurgent Team, graduated from the ROTC Flight Training Program, and was the Corps Commander in the spring of 1970. He was listed in *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities (Military Science)*. He was recognized as a Distinguished Military Graduate. He commissioned into the regular army in July 1970 in the Transportation Corps, with a two-year detail in the Infantry. He then completed Infantry Officer training and Airborne School at Fort Benning, GA.

Martin then served five months as a Mechanized Infantry Platoon Leader at Fort Knox, KY. He followed that by going to Vietnam as a Platoon Leader in the American Division for two months. He then served for seven months with MACV Advisory Team 70, and ended his tour as a Maintenance Officer in the 525th MI Group in Saigon. On his return to the continental United States he transitioned into the Transportation Corps where he served in various transportation-related positions emphasizing supply management, movement control, and material management, including assignment as Commander of the 12th Transportation Company at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, from 1974-75.

He returned to civilian life in Decatur in 1979, working for over 20 years in management positions for Poco Graphite, Inc., in the areas of Material Control, Information Systems, and Administration. In 2000 he became a Management Consultant, providing management services for both non-profit and for-profit clients, and is still doing that today.

Martin has been very active in civic works. He has been a member of the Decatur Chamber of Commerce since 1980 and is a Past President. He has been a member of the Decatur Lions Club since 1980, and Treasurer since 2008. He was active with the Longhorn Council Boy Scouts of America, serving on the District Committee, and has received the District Award of Merit. He is a founding member of the Decatur Eagle Boosters Club and is a Past President. He is a Life Member of the Wise County Veterans Group. He is a founding member and Past President of the Wise County Community Chorus. He has worked with the United Way of Wise County since 1993, and is a Past President, Campaign Chair and Allocation Chair. He and his family have attended the First United Methodist Church since 1979, where he has served as a worship leader since 1989. And he has worked with the Wise County Health Forum (a community public health coalition) since 2004, serving as Chair since 2007.

Martin has also been very active with the City of Decatur (population 6,000+). Since 2001 he has served on the Board of Directors for the Decatur Economic Development Corporation, as Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer. He was the Vice Chair of the Decatur City Home Rule Charter Commission from 2002 to 2003. He has also been a member of the Decatur City Council since 2005, serving as Mayor Pro Tem from 2009 to 2012, and has been the Mayor of Decatur since 2012. As Mayor, Martin strives to continue developing Decatur into North Texas' most preferred small residential and business community.

Martin has a Master's degree in Transportation Management and a Master's degree in Computer Science. He is married to Jana Sue, his college sweetheart, and has what he calls three super-wonderful children and eight amazing grandchildren.

Obituary

June 19, 1948 — January 8, 2024

Decatur ~ Martin Bennett Woodruff, 75, went to be with our Lord Monday, January 8, 2024 surrounded by loved ones.

Funeral is 10:30 a.m. Saturday at First United Methodist Church of Decatur. Family will receive friends 6-8:00 p.m. Friday at Hawkins Funeral Home in Decatur. Military Honors provided by The Wise County Veterans Group.

Martin was born June 19, 1948 to Willard Bennett, Jr. and Mary Louise (Gettys) Woodruff in Austin, Texas. He was united in marriage January 1, 1971 to Jana Sue Long in Decatur, Texas. Martin attended the University of Texas at Arlington, where he sang folk music & was active in ROTC. After graduating in 1970 with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, he proudly served in United States Army, both in Viet Nam & around the U.S. During his service he was able to earn Master's Degrees in Logistics, Computer Science, also in Transportation Management. He retired from the service in 1979 & moved back to Decatur.

He retired after many years as a manager for Poco Graphite. Martin was in Lion's Club for over 44 years, since 1980; member of Decatur City Council for 14 years and Mayor from 2012-2020.

He started the Wise County Health Forum and instrumental in the start-up of Health Fair, and the Community Health Center. Martin was head of the Reunion parking Committee and Treasurer from 2007-2013; a member of United Way since 1993, and Executive Director since 2003. He was a member of FUMC in Decatur where he was Song-Leader after Charles Wilhite for 30 years in the early service. Martin was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother-in-law, uncle, and friend to many who will miss him dearly.

He was preceded in death by his parents, W.B. and Mary Louise Woodruff; and a brother, Tim Woodruff.

Those left behind to cherish his memory are his wife of 53 years, Jana Woodruff of Decatur; 2 daughters, Thea Woodruff of Austin and husband Shannon Shaddock, and Lauren Campbell and husband Lance of Prairie Grove, Arkansas; a son, Evan Woodruff and wife Gina of Austin; 8 grandchildren, Zoë & fiancé Trevor, Aiden, Zachary, Ronan, Thorin, Crozlä, Alexandra, and Jaxon; his brother, Mason Woodruff and wife Karen; sisters, Nannette Williams and husband Kevin, and Nola Cocanougher and husband Daniel; his sister-in-law, Joy Woodruff; numerous, nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

<https://www.hawkinsfuneralhome.com/obituaries/martin-woodruff>