



Judge James E. Wright

Judge Wright was born January 15, 1921, in Arlington, Texas. He attended North Texas Agricultural College (NTAC) graduating in 1940. During his tenure at North Texas Agricultural College, he was President of the Pre-Law Society known as the “Aggie Bar.” He was very active in many extracurricular affairs on the campus. He was a member of the ROTC Cadet Corps and attained the rank of Cadet Captain in the band.

Judge Wright served his country for four years as a glider pilot in the Troop Carrier Command during World War II. After the war, he attended The University of Texas at Austin where he received the Doctor of Jurisprudence degree in 1949.

Judge Wright was a trail lawyer for more than twenty years in Fort Worth, Texas and during that time also served as City Attorney for the City of Arlington from 1951 to 1961. He was President of the Fort Worth/Tarrant County Bar Association, the State Bar of Texas, Phi Alpha Delta (honorary legal organization), and the Fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation (honorary legal organization). He has served as Judge of the 141st Judicial District of Texas since October 1969.

He is a Mason, Shriner and a member of the Fort Worth Rotary Club (president from 1966-1967). He attends the First Methodist Church of Fort Worth where he serves on the administration board. He is also listed in “Who’s Who in America.”

Judge Wright has been and is a great supporter of the Corps of Cadets at The University of Texas at Arlington. In 1982, he was selected as Distinguished Alumnus of UTA. His continuing

interest and support of many civic functions in the area have brought credit to himself, the legal profession and The University of Texas at Arlington.

Obituary

James E. Wright, 85, a retired district judge, died Saturday, Jan. 21, 2006.

Funeral: 2 p.m. Wednesday at First United Methodist Church, Fort Worth. The Rev. Dr. Lamar Smith will officiate.

Interment: Watson Cemetery, Arlington.

Pallbearers will be Gene DeBullet, Jeff Eaton, Walt Kerr, Bud Leddingham, Robert Lee, Lewis Marchbanks, Danny Page, and David Stewart.

Honorary pallbearers will be Bill Blackmon, Dennis Dellis, Tom Foster, Barry Hasten, C.M. "Hank" Hudspeth, Bill Northern, and all members of the Shrine Patrol.

Memorials: The memory of James E. Wright may be honored with a donation to the Scottish Rite Children's Hospital, 2222 Wellborn, Dallas, Texas 75218, (214) 559-5000; the American Heart Association, 2401 Scott, Fort Worth, Texas 76103, (817) 315-5000; or a charity of choice.

James E. Wright was born Jan. 15, 1921, in Arlington. He was the only child of James Robert Wright, former Tarrant County sheriff and U.S. marshal for the Northern District of Texas, and Clairette Smith Wright. He was also the nephew of C.H. "Punch" Wright, former Tarrant County commissioner.

He graduated from Arlington High School in 1937 and attended North Texas Agricultural College from 1937 to 1940, now UTA, where he was active in ROTC and band. He served with the Army Air Corps during World War II as a glider pilot.

Upon his return, he entered the University of Texas Law School and graduated with a Doctor of Jurisprudence in January 1949. He was a member of the Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity. He served as Arlington city attorney from 1951 to 1961 and was a trial lawyer in Fort Worth from 1949 until 1969.

In 1970, he was appointed district judge of the 141st District Court, where he served until 1989. He was a member of the Fort Worth–Tarrant County Bar Association and served as its president from 1958 to 1959. In 1982, he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from UTA. In 1985, he was named to the Military Science Department Hall of Honor at UTA.

He was a fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation (life member) and a member of the American Bar Association. He was a member of the Fort Worth Downtown Rotary Club, where he served as president from 1966 to 1967 and was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship. After his retirement in 1989, he served as senior district judge.

Judge Wright was a member of First United Methodist Church, Fort Worth; a 32nd-degree Mason; a life member of the Shrine Patrol (president, 1962); a life member of the Royal Order of

Jesters; and a life member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas. He is listed in Who's Who in America, Who's Who in American Law, and Who's Who in the World.

Survivors: Wife of almost 60 years, Eberta; daughter, Patricia Rogers and her husband, Haskell Lee Rogers III; and grandchildren, Haskell Lee Rogers IV and Elizabeth Clair Rogers.