



## George Houston White

January 12, 1913 - May 3, 2019

George Houston White passed away peacefully in Rusk, Texas on May 3, 2019 at the age of 106.

Son of Anthony Calvin White and Effie Lorene Dunn White, Houston was born in Colorado City, Texas on January 12, 1913. Houston grew up in a family of 4 brothers and two sisters. He was born on land his grandfather purchased from the Texas & Pacific Railway in 1902.

The family farming interest turned to tomato growing and in the early 1920's his family moved to the Jacksonville, Texas area where they engaged in the booming tomato industry.

Upon graduation from Jacksonville High School, Houston attended Jacksonville Baptist College, graduating in 1936. One of his cherished collegiate achievements was being a member of the Jacksonville College Jaguars 1936 state championship basketball team. During World War II Houston served in the US Navy based in Jacksonville, Florida. In 1947, he became a merchant via The Rusk Hotel and Coffee Shop on the downtown business square in Rusk.

His second career was with the State of Texas as Admissions Director for the Rusk State Hospital from which he retired in 1978.

His deep faith led him to the First Baptist Church of Rusk serving for many years as a Sunday School teacher and Deacon.

Houston's civic interests were varied and numerous. With other like-minded associates he was one of twenty charter members of the Rusk Rotary Club founded in 1948. During 1969-70, he served as Rotary District Governor for District 591 covering 30 clubs in East and Southeast Texas. In 2017 Houston was honored by the dedication of the Houston White Rotary Pavilion in Rusk.

As City Councilman, he continued to give back to his community. He also served a term as President of The Rusk Chamber of Commerce. Serving several times as Grand Marshall of the Rusk July Fourth Parade on the town square, he was able to again honor his state and his country.

Houston was predeceased by two outstanding wives, Katherine Dorris White and Freddy Banks Dear White. He is survived by his only son, George and wife Anne of

Houston, Texas, grandson Christopher White and wife Jennifer Rook White of Austin, great granddaughters, Katherine and Elizabeth, sisters Lorene Bergen of Fort Worth and Bess McLeod of Keller, Texas, and numerous nieces, nephews and their offspring.

Visitation will be held 5:30-7:30 on Friday, May 10, 2019 at Wallace Thompson Funeral Home in Rusk. Services will be at Rusk First Baptist Church on Saturday, May 11, 2019 at 2pm with Reverends Brian Givens, James Goforth, and Lee Welch participating. Burial will follow at Providence Cemetery two miles north of Dialville, Texas.

The family would like to thank Rusk's Dr. Mark Morris and staff, the Jacksonville UT Health Center staff, the Cherokee Trails Nursing Home staff, and Heart to Heart Hospice for their exemplary care and kindness.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that remembrances be sent to the Rusk Rotary Club at P.O. Box 324, Rusk, Texas 75785 or the Rusk First Baptist Church, 372 E 4th Street, Rusk, Texas 75785.

Houston White and his fellow members of the "Greatest Generation" will be greatly missed by family, friends and the country they loved.

# Tribute Wall

AT

“ I have known Houston White my entire life. He was one fine man and a true gentleman! My parents and grandparents always talked about him. Everyone seemed to know him and like him tremendously! My parents were married in The Rusk Hotel on Sept. 17, 1946 and Houston became the owner when he Returned from the service in 1947. My parents and relatives spent great times there. I've lways loved that hotel. Houston lived a wonderful life for106 years and was admired and loved by many. His memory will live on in our hearts! Our sincere sympathy,prayers and love to each and every family member and loved one! Ray & Arlene Todd & Mary Wallace Woods

Arlene Wallace Todd - May 09, 2019 at 04:05 AM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of George Houston White.



May 08, 2019 at 09:34 PM

MD

“ Houston White served his family, his community, and his country with dedication, honor and dignity. May he Rest In Peace!

“Well done, good and faithful servant.” (Matthew 25:21)

Our most heartfelt condolences to the White family.

Michael B. and Frances Ann Dear and Family

Mike and Frances Dear - May 08, 2019 at 10:42 AM

CC

“ Houston was the epitome of a Christian gentleman. His kindness, concern for others, and heart to serve continues to inspire me. I spent SO many days at their kitchen table with cups of coffee, sharing burdens, seeking advice, and laughing about fun life events. I will miss my friend and look forward to the day when we are all reunited.

Cindy Cunningham - May 06, 2019 at 01:00 PM

PD

“ To George Anne and Family: Mr. Houston White was a hero to many of us~those seem to belong to the "Greatest Generation" ~My last time to see him he was strolling~rapidly, in his cowboy boots~across Brookshire's mkt. and then there was the time he brought the Rusk Baptist church meal at Larry's father's death. and many times I've listened to Larry chuckle and talk about his time and George's at the Rusk Hotel for lunch "off campus"...

What a Legacy ...and what a comfort all these memories of a Christian man~Larry and Paula Dickerson, Fairfax, Va.

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**Paula M. Dickerson** - May 04, 2019 at 08:03 PM

SH

I remember how sweet Mr. White and Katherine were to me when I was just around preteen. My Aunt Louise Houston worked for them at the Hotel. When we came up to visit from Houston, the elderly men that would come in and drink coffee would put me up to doing all kind of things to the ladies that worked in there. I'm now 69 and Mr. White never forgot me. Prayers for your family

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**Shirley ( Pete Roach ) Herring** - May 04, 2019 at 08:20 PM