



George M. Fleming

Picture from the 2001-02 Club Directory

George Fleming was born and raised in Flagstaff, Arizona. He was the oldest son in a family of five boys. After he left the Flagstaff, he graduated with a degree in Education from Arizona State University in Tempe. He then went to work in education, teaching poor Indian children in a school in Florence, Arizona. He never forgot that experience

When WWII broke out, George joined the Army Air Force and was trained as a pilot instructor at Ellington Field in Houston. That's where he met Mary K. They were married at Annunciation Church in downtown Houston and raised two sons, George an attorney and Scott a businessman, both of whom live in Houston

Shortly after WWII, George went to work for the Veteran's Administration Hospital where he earned his masters in education and his doctorate at the University of Houston. He then took the position of the Chief Administrator of what was then called Galveston County Memorial Hospital in La Marque, now Mainland Hospital. He was there during Hurricane Carla.

He then went to work as the Administrator of The Methodist Hospital in the Texas Medical Center (that's where I met George –after several months' weekly staff meetings, George introduced me to Dr. Jimmy Frank Howell and Dr. Michael DeBakey which led to my writing, editing and researching for both of these medical legends).

He then moved to be the Chief Administrator of the Santa Rosa Hospital System in San Antonio. At the time, the Methodist Hospital and the Santa Rosa Hospital were the largest hospitals in the state. George was elected President of the Texas Hospital Association and received their highest honor, the Earl Collier Award.

He then moved back to Baytown and took over as CEO of Baytown Methodist Hospital and formulated the plan to bring satellite Methodist hospitals into the Methodist group.

George and Mary were married almost 30 years when she suddenly died of a cerebral aneurysm at the age of 59

After several years, George married Dr. Elaine Mantoosh. Elaine was an Emergency Room physician in Galveston County who lost her husband about the same time George lost Mary. George and Elaine were married over 20 years when he passed away.

George enjoyed telling stories about his boyhood in Flagstaff, Arizona and his younger brother Art's dog, Pancho, and their horse, Buck. All of his brothers served together in one branch of the military or another during WWII.

George was a lifetime member of Rotary, served as president of two clubs and enjoyed membership in five clubs, Houston, La Marque, Baytown, San Antonio, and, of course, the Space Center Rotary Club. He always enjoyed the luncheon meetings and the camaraderie and friendship he found through Rotary.

Beginning this fall, the new George Mc Farland Fleming school of Health Care Administration will open at the University of Texas Health Science Center where enrollees will earn Masters and Doctorate degrees in hospital and health care administration. There is another school at UT law, a professorship in health care law in his name.

It is with sadness and joy that we remember Dr. George Fleming.

Write up by Club member Laura Hale