



## JERRY LYNN HOPSON

HOPSON, Jerry Lynn The long, happy life of Jerry Lynn Hopson ended May 23, 2017, in Austin, less than a month shy of his 87th birthday. He attributed his happiness to an ambitious father, a doting mother, and two marriages lived with the motto, "happy wife, happy life." Despite suffering from COPD and dementia, he maintained his widely admired gentle, kind, and generous attitudes.

After his birth in Houston, June 17, 1930, to RD and Ethel (Freeman) Hopson, the young family lived in Houston, El Paso, Lubbock, Amarillo, Evanston (IL), and Dallas, before returning to Amarillo, where Jerry graduated from high school. He earned a BBA in 1952, an LLB in 1953 from UT Austin, and an MBA from WSTU. Jerry's happy marriage in 1951 to his college sweetheart, Wilma Lee Henry, lasted until 2003, when she died shortly after they moved to Lakeway. He is survived by their cherished children: Susan Ashley (Jim), Polly Hopson of Lakeway, and Carolyn Farris of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and beloved grandchildren: Greg (Casey), PJ, and Dan LeVine, Lena Farris, Clara and Sarah Ashley. Jerry's second happy marriage in 2004 to Helen Hopson, whom he affectionately and good-humoredly called his "younger, second wife," added a stepson, Ken Hoffman (Allison) and their sons, Connelly and Beckett, Lubbock; and a brother-in-law, Steve Wallace, Arcata, CA; and three kitties: Gabi, Beamer, and Golda. He was predeceased by his wife, Lee, son, David, son-in-law, Lonnie Farris, and kitty Gabi.

Jerry had a long, prosperous career as an attorney and vice president at Pioneer, an Amarillo energy company, before he retired to savor family life, enjoy volunteering, fishing, flying, old cars, travel, museums, investing, philanthropy, adult learning, theater, concerts, and everyday life. He had been a director of the Amarillo Bar Association and was twice elected board president of the Amarillo Day Nursery. Jerry and his family traveled in the USA, Vancouver, Hong Kong, and Beijing, where he walked the Great Wall. He and Helen took trips to Argentina, Chile, Mexico, London, and Stockholm. Traveling indulged his sharp intellectual curiosity and love of story-telling. He noted that there are two kinds of Hopsons, those who can tell good stories and those who think they can. He could – and while he and his stories will be missed, he and they will live on in loving hearts and treasured memories.

The family is grateful for the outstanding, compassionate help given by many to Jerry during his illness, especially by his caregiver, Peter Hernandez, family helper, Letty Rivera, and the great team of caring professionals at Brookdale Hospice.

A memorial service is planned for 3:00, June 17, at Parker Lane United Methodist Church, 2105 Parker Lane, Austin, TX 78741. Family graveside services were held May 31 in Lake Charles, LA. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Jerry's name to Alzheimer's Assoc, Parker Lane UMC, [FCACTX.ORG](http://FCACTX.ORG), or favorite charity of your choice.

Published in Austin American-Statesman, June 11, 2017

[www.legacy.com/obituaries/statesman/obituary.aspx?n=jerry-hopson&pid=185770965](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/statesman/obituary.aspx?n=jerry-hopson&pid=185770965)