



Judge Howard Volney Tygrett Jr.

January 12, 1940 - November 18, 2015

Retired Honorable District Judge, Howard Volney Tygrett, Jr. passed away on November 18, 2015 at the age of 75.

Judge Tygrett will be remembered for his commitment to law and justice, brilliant mind, solid, calm demeanor, stories he told, sense of humor, and as a devoted and loving husband, father, and grandfather.

Howard Volney Tygrett, Jr. was born in Lake Charles Louisiana on January 12, 1940. He was the only child of Hazel and Howard (Tyg) Volney Tygrett Sr. and spent his formative years in Dallas, Texas. He graduated from St. Mark's School of Texas in 1957. He braved the cold and traveled to the East for college, graduating from Williams College, in Williamstown, Massachusetts in 1961. He often sported a sweatshirt with the Purple Cow, Ephs and William's logo on weekends throughout his life. Through the years, Howard enjoyed reunions with alumni from both St Mark's and Williams. He was especially glad so many St Mark's classmen joined him at a retirement party, barely a year ago at Bud Miller's home.

Howard attended Law School at Southern Methodist University. He graduated in the top 10% of his class in 1964. After graduating, Howard worked for the General Attorney U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Howard served as Law Clerk to Joe E. Estes, Chief Judge, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas. Judge Estes became a lifelong friend and mentor. After clerking for Judge Estes, Howard practiced law for more than 30 years, on the 7th floor of what was then known as Preston State Bank Building in Preston

Center.

Howard was elected 86th District Judge (Kaufman County) in November 2002. He will be remembered as the first Republican district judge elected in Kaufman County since Reconstruction. Howard was re-elected in November of 2006 and again in 2010. He served until retirement at the end of December 2014. Howard was in office in January 2013, when Mark Hasse, Chief Assistant District Attorney for the Kaufman County and Kaufman County Criminal District Attorney Michael "Mike" McClelland and his wife Cynthia, were killed. Though deeply saddened by the death of his colleagues, Howard was determined to proceed with business as usual at the courthouse, never wavering from carrying out duties of his elected position. Judge Tygrett will be remembered as unfailingly fair, a good listener, kind, approachable and knowledgeable. Those who came before Judge Tygrett's bench were treated with dignity, regardless of life circumstances. Honorable Judge Howard Tygrett remained grateful to the people of Kaufman County for allowing him to serve them.

Howard was a member of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and a former senior warden of the Vestry. He was a member of Rotary International, Lions International, Terrell Heritage Society Board, and Dallas Center for the Developmentally Disabled Board President. He was a member of Civitan International for many years in which he held many leadership positions. Howard is preceded in death by his parents, Howard Volney Tygrett Sr and Hazel Wheeler Tygrett, and his son Howard Volney Tygrett III (Trey). He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Linda Lee Tygrett; daughter, Carroll Tygrett Bellingrath, and husband Edward; daughter-in-law, Amy Ormes Tygrett; grandchildren, Virginia Catherine Bellingrath, John Howard Bellingrath, Alice Elizabeth Tygrett, Howard Volney Tygrett IV (Ty); stepdaughter, Denise Cason, and husband, Patrick Cason; Bob Burton, stepson, and wife, Carrie Burton, grandchildren, Austin McConnell Cason and Ashton LaCour Cason, Robert Chase Burton III and Andrew Richard Burton; Godson Robert Jenkins Franklin and an uncountable number of blended family members and friends

who have been and will continue to be influenced by his life.

A memorial service will be held at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Terrell at 2:00pm, Monday, November 23, 2015 at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 200 W. College St., Terrell, Texas, 75160.

Judge Tygrett will be interred at Texas State Cemetery in Austin, Texas at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for memorial contributions to be made in memory of Howard V. Tygrett, Jr. to St. Mark's School of Texas, Williams College or Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Terrell.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV **23**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church
200 W. College St
Terrell, TX 75160

Tribute Wall

TB

“ Judge Tygrett helped me through a horrible divorce in 2002. He cared enough to offer the best advice I ever got in my life. At the time I didn't think so, he told me to sale my home and for me and my children to leave Kaufman, Tx. I did just that!!! I received my GED, graduated with a 2 year Applied Science with Honors! I went through Kaufman, Tx several times after that and I stopped in and hugged his neck and thanked him for everything! The last time I seen Judge Tygrett I could feel his frail little body when I hugged his neck, he passed soon afterwards. Thank you Judge Tygrett may you Rest in Peace sir. Tammie Brown

Tammie Brown - November 25, 2025 at 03:36 PM



“ Judge Howard Volney Tygrett Jr.

October 08, 2023 at 07:43 PM

FS

“ Friends at Southwestern purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Judge Howard Volney Tygrett Jr..



Friends at Southwestern - November 23, 2015 at 08:48 AM

DB

“ Our brother-in-law, Bob Lee, was a great admirer of Howard, and we wanted to make a donation to the Episcopal church in his memory. We are sorry we never got to meet him and enjoy his company. Linda, please accept our condolences for your loss. Dave and Sue Bentley.

Dave and Sue Bentley - November 22, 2015 at 09:43 AM

JW

“ JoAnn Willingham lit a candle in memory of Judge Howard Volney Tygrett Jr.



JoAnn Willingham - November 22, 2015 at 09:37 AM

JW

“ Linda, I was so sad to hear of Howard's passing. I think of you often, fond memories of us working together years ago. I will keep you and your family in my thoughts and prayers in the days to come. May God wrap his loving arms around you and yours and give you comfort during this difficult time. Love, JoAnn and Mike Willingham.

JoAnn Willingham - November 22, 2015 at 09:35 AM

CG

“ To Howard's family, friends, and classmates,

As a St. Mark's classmate, I am saddened by his passing but pleased to know that he achieved a successful family and professional life. It was fun learning about his election as a judge. Our little class of 1957 has had more than its share of successful lives.

*Best wishes,
Charles Greenhall*

Charles A. Greenhall - November 21, 2015 at 08:14 PM

WH

“ *William Carter Martin, Jr. and Thomas Clellon Hockaday purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Judge Howard Volney Tygrett Jr..*



William Carter Martin, Jr. and Thomas Clellon Hockaday -
November 21, 2015 at 10:19 AM

MF

“ *So grateful for the support he showed us through the years to brings new services to Kaufman County for victims. Really going to miss him!*

Memory: one day we were in the courtroom waiting for the attorneys to come back In the courtroom from conferencing and Judge Tygrett was sitting on the bench (eating his peanuts) and he said, "Hey Mary, you want to come sing? I have a microphone!" Linda, I'm praying for you, my friend!

Mary Farmer - November 21, 2015 at 05:13 AM



“ *Health Nut Basket was purchased for the family of Judge Howard Volney Tygrett Jr..*



November 20, 2015 at 05:26 PM



“ *John Fleet purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Judge Howard Volney Tygrett Jr..*



John Fleet - November 20, 2015 at 04:32 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Judge Howard Volney Tygrett Jr..*



November 20, 2015 at 03:16 PM



“ *Karen and I are lifting you up in prayer. Judge Tygrett was one of my favorite people. He will be missed.*

Hal Jones - November 20, 2015 at 01:37 PM

JB

“ Mrs. Tygrett, I am so sorry for your loss. Mr. Tygrett was such a kind and gentle man. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
Judy Beesley

Judy Beesley - November 20, 2015 at 01:34 PM

GF

“ It was Always an Honor your Honor. Gods Speed. My thoughts and prayers are with Linda and the family at this time. You will be missed.

Gay Lynn Freeman - November 20, 2015 at 10:50 AM

RC

“ Russell Crow & Jean Crow lit a candle in memory of Judge Howard Volney Tygrett Jr.



Russell Crow & Jean Crow - November 20, 2015 at 09:43 AM

ND

“ What a delightful gentleman he was. We will truly miss him. May God be with you, Linda, and your family. Mike and Nancy Dansby

Nancy Dansby - November 19, 2015 at 11:06 PM

BL

“ *Bob And Yvonne Lovell lit a candle in memory of Judge Howard Volney Tygrett Jr.*



Bob and Yvonne Lovell - November 19, 2015 at 05:55 PM

SG

“ *Linda: Scott and I grieve with you today for our friend, Judge Tygrett. He graced the life of all who knew him, especially us. We will miss him. The Gilmores*



Scott & Charlotte Gilmore - November 19, 2015 at 05:40 PM

VE

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Veronica - November 19, 2015 at 05:10 PM

VT

“ *Valerie Thompson purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Judge Howard Volney Tygrett Jr..*



Valerie Thompson - November 19, 2015 at 02:46 PM

RB

“ *Russell Alexander, President & the Dallas Center Board purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Judge Howard Volney Tygrett Jr..*



Russell Alexander, President & the Dallas Center Board -
November 19, 2015 at 02:02 PM

BL

“ *Mrs. Tygrett,
What a Blessing Mr. Tygrett has been as a servant and a friend. My heart is heavy for you and your family during this time. It is an honor to have known him though business, both his and mine and personally. His compassion touched my heart and many others. Many prayers to you all.
Becky Lewis*

Becky Lewis - November 19, 2015 at 09:40 AM

MS

“ *Mrs. Tygrett,
Please accept our sincerest condolences and our heartfelt gratitude for allowing us to serve you during this time of loss. We were very blessed to have his Honor as a friend and truly privileged that he served Kaufman County so well. You and the entire family will be lifted up in our thoughts and prayers.
Sincerely, Max*

Max Slayton - November 18, 2015 at 07:11 PM