



Tom Reid

JUN 24, 2023



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Tom Reid

JUN 24, 2023

Obituary of Tom Reid Please share a memory of Tom to include in a keepsake book for family and friends. [View Tribute Book](#)

Mayor Emeritus Tom Reid, 97, passed away peacefully on June 24, 2023, surrounded by family and friends. He is preceded in death by his father, Thomas Joel Reid Sr, mother, Hazel Nichols Reid, and four sisters. He is survived by his daughter, Trisha Robison, his son, Carl Reid, and granddaughter, Nikki Robison.

Born in Houston in 1925, Tom grew up in a small town in Central Texas. He proudly served his country in the United States Navy during World War II. In 1951, Tom graduated with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Texas. He was a proud member of the Texas Cowboy's and the Chi Phi Fraternity.

He moved to Pearland with his family in 1965. Tom began his career as a contractor for NASA Johnson Space Center. His career with NASA would arguably serve as the impetus for motivating him to build Pearland into what the city has become today. The mayor's 44 years dedicated to the City of Pearland would outlast his professional 32-year career with NASA.

While building the framework for Pearland, he managed complex projects and tight budgets for NASA's Gemini, Apollo, Apollo-Soyuz, Skylab, and Space Shuttle programs. From 1990-1993, he took a brief hiatus as mayor due to travel requirements with NASA. Notable developments that occurred during his tenure include expanding Pearland west to its current border along Almeda Road/FM521; expanding public safety services to include an exemplary police department, the conversion of an all-volunteer fire department to a full-time employed fire department, developing city departments as population grew, cultivating the city's parks and trails systems, and bringing large residential developments and small and large businesses to promote economic growth.



Obituary

Tom Reid

Tom's commitment to community service extended far beyond his administrative duties. He dedicated himself to numerous community organizations and causes. As an Eagle Scout, he exemplified the values of scouting and went on to serve as a Scoutmaster for the Boy Scouts. He actively participated in the Pearland Area Citizens Corps, contributing his time and expertise to promote community preparedness and safety.

Additionally, he served as an Ordained Elder at the First Presbyterian Church, embodying his deep faith and commitment to spiritual leadership. Tom also served on the Pearland ISD District Education Improvement Committee, the Adult Reading Center, the Pearland Historical Society, and the Pearland Arts League. His tireless advocacy for education has not only enriched the lives of Pearland residents but has also fostered a culture of lifelong learning that will endure for generations to come.

Tom played a pivotal role in securing funding for a standalone library building, aptly located across the street from City Hall, that proudly bears his name. Furthermore, he was an esteemed member of the C.F. Spencer Mason Lodge, attaining the distinguished rank of 32 Degree Mason, and actively participated as a Shriner. Through his involvement in these esteemed organizations, Tom exemplified his dedication to philanthropy, brotherhood, and the betterment of society.

Upon his retirement, he received the esteemed title of Mayor Emeritus from the City of Pearland, a position created in his honor. As Mayor Emeritus, Tom would continue to actively engage with the community, representing the city at various events and serving as a goodwill ambassador. His most recent public appearance took place on March 21, 2023, at the United States Post Office on East Walnut that was named in his honor, recognizing his many years of service to Pearland.

At the end of May 2023, he was placed in hospice care. Tom's unwavering dedication and service to the City of Pearland leaves an indelible mark of gratitude. His remarkable legacy will forever serve as an inspiration, illuminating our path as we strive to construct a brighter future for our cherished community.

In lieu of flowers, PLEASE consider donating to one of these wonderful organizations Mayor Tom supported or a cause of your choice: Adult Education Center Keep Pearland Beautiful Pearland Exchange Club Pearland Neighborhood Center Seva Clinic



Tribute Wall

Tom Reid

LD

Linda Drapela posted:

I had the good fortune of having Tom as my manager while working at the space center in Houston. He was one of the best and most supportive managers that I have ever had. His contributions in that environment and to his community were many and impressive. What a role model! What a life! He will be greatly missed.

July 7 at 7:00 PM

MF

Matt Fondren posted:

As a kid, I remember Tom at the First Presbyterian Church in Pearland where he and my parents Sallye and Edgar Fondren were members. He was a very kind and respectable person. Tom wanted what was best for everybody in Pearland and strived to grow the town in a manner consistent with his inclusive, volunteer oriented beliefs. Tom gave of himself and his time everyday of his adult life. I know God has a place of honor at his table for a man that gave of himself so generously. I moved from Pearland around 1990 to begin my life on my own and my parents both died a few years back, but I know that I can speak on my parents behalf and say that it was a joy to know Tom. Sincerely, Matt Fondren

July 3 at 7:00 PM

DW

Dodie Armstrong, Constituent Liaison For Cong. Randy Weber posted:

I may not have been a close family friend but Mayor Reid always made me feel like I was part of his circle of friends. He had the gift of making you feel like the only person in the room while you had his attention. I looked for him at any community event because his kind eyes and warm heart truly made me feel special. I am a better person having known Mayor Reid. I will absolutely miss him.

June 29 at 7:00 PM

MC

Mayor Kevin And Lisa Cole posted:

Deepest sympathies to Trisha and her family. Your Dad was a special man that we all dearly loved.

June 29 at 7:00 PM

JL

Jim Liberatore posted:

Tom was a true gentleman and loved all of the people of Pearland

June 29 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

Tom Reid



Heidi Wiess, posted:

The Wiess family, Louie, Jackie, Heidi and daughters, and Pat Black, Thank You Chief. Prayers for Trisha, Carl and Nikki for peace and love.

June 29 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Trish. We are sorry to hear of your fathers passing. Sending our deepest condolences.

June 28 at 7:00 PM



Chuck Wemple And The H-Gac Team posted:

Mayor Reid was a Texas Treasure whose tremendous impact lives on. Our thoughts are with the family and Pearland community during this difficult time.

June 27 at 7:00 PM



W. Allen Owen posted:

I was so sorry to hear of my longtime friends passing. As the former Mayor of Missouri City for 32 years myself, Tom and I had the opportunity to work together on City issues, legislative issues, and even just to visit. He was a true public servant and served his community for his entire life. That is dedication. He will be missed by all of those of us who had the honor to know him. RIP my friend.
Allen Owen

June 27 at 7:00 PM



Karen Hood posted:

So sorry to lose such a dedicated Mayor, great neighbor and friend. Sincerely, the Buchanan family.

June 27 at 7:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Tom by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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