## JT SOUTHWESTERN NEWS MEDICAL CENTER



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## Jerry Cunningham gives \$100,000 for clinical, research programs at UT Southwestern in honor of his late wife, Marie

DALLAS - Aug. 22, 2006 - Dallas oilman Jerry Cunningham has given \$100,000 in honor of his late wife, Marie, to enhance internal medicine, cardiology and pulmonary-care programs at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

Mr. Cunningham said the donation, a charitable gift annuity to Southwestern Medical Foundation, was inspired by the quality of care Mrs. Cunningham received at the medical center during her prolonged battle with heart and lung disease.

"We were so grateful for the wonderful care Marie received at UT Southwestern and were so impressed by the compassion of the doctors and staff," said Mr. Cunningham. "We had long recognized the medical center as a leader in medical research, but it wasn't until Marie became ill that we came to fully appreciate how lucky we are to have such a great institution in Dallas."

The couple married in 1984, after both became widowed. They were longtime friends who became acquainted through Mrs. Cunningham's first husband, oilman Billy Jack Lancaster.

Mr. Cunningham has spent his adult life in the oil business, serving as president of the drilling division of Sedco, at the time the largest offshore drilling company in the world. He also was appointed by former Gov. Bill Clements to serve as chairman of the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. He also has served and supported Alcoholics Anonymous for more than five decades.

Mrs. Cunningham, who died in March, was active in a wide variety of organizations. She was a member of the Dallas Woman's Club and the Marianne Scruggs Garden Club. Avid dancers, the Cunninghams were members of the Dallas Dinner and Dance Club, as well as other dance organizations. The couple had memberships at the Dallas Petroleum Club, Brook Hollow Golf Club and Northwood Club in Dallas.

Mrs. Cunningham had two grown children, Lyn Legge and Debbie King, and four (MORE)

## Cunningham gift - 2

grandchildren.

"We have great respect for Jerry Cunningham's generosity and are honored to have earned his trust," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern. "This is a very meaningful gift that will significantly enhance important clinical and research programs. We're very grateful to Jerry for having made UT Southwestern the beneficiary of his generous contribution in Marie's honor."

W. Plack Carr Jr., president of Southwestern Medical Foundation, said, "We're enormously gratified by Mr. Cunningham's loyalty to the medical center. It is this kind of generosity that enables us to move forward in our mission to create one of the finest medical institutions anywhere in the world."

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