SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

BOONE AND NELDA PICKENS DONATE $1 MILLION TO SUPPORT CARDIOLOGY PROGRAMS AT UT SOUTHWESTERN

DALLAS – April 5, 2001 – Philanthropists Boone and Nelda Pickens have contributed $1 million to support cardiology research at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

The gift, given to Southwestern Medical Foundation, establishes the Endowment Fund for Cardiology in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Pickens.

"I have always had a keen interest in cardiology," said Mr. Pickens, who is a member of the President's Research Council at UT Southwestern. "I know that UT Southwestern researchers are making great strides in their cardiology research programs."

A native of Holdenville, Okla., Mr. Pickens moved to Dallas in 1989. He founded Mesa Petroleum Corp., one of the leading oil and gas exploration and production firms in the nation, in 1951 in Amarillo. He graduated from Oklahoma State University with a bachelor's degree in geology. He is also chief executive officer of BP Capital, chairman and CEO of Pickens Fuel Corp., and president and CEO of Mesa Water Inc.

A strong supporter of physical fitness and research in the area of cardiology, Mr. Pickens provided his employees with a major fitness facility at Mesa's headquarters in 1979.

"We are honored by their gift," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern. "Their contribution will help to expand our research in the area of heart disease."

Paul Bass, chairman of the board of Southwestern Medical Foundation, said, "We are thrilled by the magnificent contribution and the generosity shown by Mr. and Mrs. Pickens to support cardiology efforts at UT Southwestern. Their generosity will benefit many people."

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