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Benjamin and Selma Parrill bequeath \$600,000 to support programs at UT Southwestern, honor their physicians

DALLAS – April 3, 2008 – Dallas civic leaders Benjamin and Selma Parrill died in 2007, just 13 days apart. But before their passing they bequeathed \$600,000 to support cardiology and general medicine programs at UT Southwestern Medical Center and to honor the work of two well-respected faculty physicians who cared for them through their final stages of life. The gifts also will establish a scholarship in honor of Mr. Parrill's mother.

The bequest to Southwestern Medical Foundation will provide \$200,000 to establish the Ben and Selma Parrill Endowment Fund in General Medicine, which was created in honor of Dr. Gary Reed, professor of internal medicine. Another \$200,000, which was given in honor of Dr. Sharon Reimold, associate professor of internal medicine, will establish the Ben and Selma Parrill Endowment Fund in Cardiology.

The final gift of \$100,000 will endow the Flora Miller Award Fund to help medical students pursue their dreams of becoming doctors.

"All three of these funds are wonderful assets to the medical center, and are a testament to how appreciative the Parrills were of the care they received at UT Southwestern," said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of the medical center. "Ben and Selma's desire to support research and clinical care was heartfelt, and they remained committed to their community until the end of their lives. We're tremendously grateful for their generosity, which has helped us move ever closer to our goal of being the best comprehensive medical center in the country."

W. Plack Carr Jr., president of Southwestern Medical Foundation, added: "We're enormously thankful of the Parrills' forethought and desire to include us in their philanthropic plans. They were true community leaders in every sense."

Born in New York City in 1917, Mr. Parrill began working at the age of 10 and continued through his graduation with honors from Columbia University School of Business in 1937. He began his business career as an executive at R.H. Macy and, after serving the American Red Cross and the U.S. Army, he relocated to Dallas in 1946. He served as president of Texas Miller Products; president of Adam Hats, Inc.; CEO and chairman of Miller Bros. Industries in Dallas and New York; and president of the Hat Institute of America. A bachelor until he was 45, Mr. Parrill married Selma Novy, then a recent widow with four young children, in 1962.

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Mrs. Parrill was born in Chicago in 1927. A talented artist, she attended the Art Institute of Chicago and the University of Wisconsin before coming to Texas. Also an avid reader, she served as treasurer of the Friends of the Dallas Public Library and was a touring docent for the Dallas Museum of Art and the Nasher Sculpture Center.

The Parrills were members of Congregation Shearith Israel and Temple Emanu-El and longtime supporters of numerous organizations and charities, including Southwestern Medical Foundation, the Dallas Symphony Association, the Dallas Museum of Art, the Dallas Opera, the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas and the American Jewish Committee, among others.

“Ben and Selma were patients of mine for several years, and I have never seen an elderly couple so devoted to one another,” said Dr. Reed. “Their generous gift, which will be used in part to fund research in health services and patient safety, is greatly appreciated. I am personally very touched by their desire to honor me and help the many other patients who will come after them.”

Dr. Reed earned his medical degree from UT Southwestern in 1977 and joined its faculty in 1980 after completing an internship and residency the medical school. He has received numerous awards and honors, including being on the best doctors lists of *American Health Magazine*, *Texas Monthly*, *D Magazine* and Best Doctors, Inc. for many years. Parkland Memorial Hospital, where he serves as vice chairman for clinical affairs, named him Physician of the Year in 2005 and 2006. He is a consultant for the Texas Medical Association and serves on the board of the Texas Academy of Internal Medicine.

“The Parrills were remarkable people, and I am deeply honored by this extraordinary gift,” said Dr. Reimold. “Their desire to help others affected by cardiovascular disease is wonderful, and I am excited about the opportunities made possible through their support.”

Before joining the UT Southwestern faculty in 2000, Dr. Reimold had a clinical practice in cardiology at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston. She earned her medical degree from Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine in 1988.

Dr. Reimold’s research interests are in the realm of cardiac imaging, using tools such as Magnetic Resonance Imaging and cardiac ultrasound to better diagnose underlying heart disease and congenital heart defects. Her clinical interests are in heart valve defects and heart disease in pregnancy. She has earned numerous honors, including the American Heart Association’s Eugene Braunwald Academic Mentorship Award.

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