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\$450,000 bequest creates scholarship fund at UT Southwestern

DALLAS – March 3, 2009 – A \$450,000 bequest from Texas pharmacist and rancher Arthur Gayle Hilley has created a student scholarship fund at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

The gift, which was given to Southwestern Medical Foundation, will establish the A.G. Hilley Scholarship Fund.

Mr. Hilley, who died in 1986 at age 70, served in the Army Air Corps in the Pacific during World War II and was a prisoner of war for nearly four years, suffering injuries that plagued him for much of his life. Mr. Hilley's nephew, Harold Hilley of Burleson, explained that his uncle's gift to support the medical center stemmed partly from his empathy for others battling chronic health problems.

"My uncle had a heart for the suffering of others, and I think much of his drive to help his fellow man was a result of what he endured during World War II," he said. "Among his many friends were a number of physicians, and I believe his gift to UT Southwestern also was an extension of his admiration for them and his desire to help young people pursue medical educations. Throughout his life, he was supportive of any endeavor that benefited young people."

UT Southwestern leaders said helping give students an opportunity to pursue their goals for a career in health care by easing the financial burden is a crucial need during trying economic times.

"This magnanimous gift from Arthur Gayle Hilley will help countless medical students cope with the challenge of considerable cost of medical education," said Dr. Daniel K. Podolsky, president of UT Southwestern. "We are truly humbled by the heartfelt gift and Mr. Hilley's desire to support medical education. We are honored by the confidence he has placed in us."

In 1946, Mr. Hilley founded Hilley's Pharmacies, a chain of drugstores. Based in Burleson, Hilley's Pharmacies grew to include seven stores in rural Texas. Mr. Hilley also was one of the founders of the Texas Federation of Drug Stores.

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An avid outdoorsman with a passion for raising registered Herford cattle, he resided on a ranch in Mineral Wells with his wife, Louise, until his death. He was a member of the Palo Pinto County Livestock Association and the American Hereford Association, among other organizations. Mrs. Hilley passed away in February 2008.

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of Southwestern Medical Foundation, said, “We’re enormously grateful for the thoughtfulness and generosity that moved Mr. Hilley to establish this substantial scholarship fund, which will be of special importance for helping needy students.”

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