

Longtime EP educator 'Hut' Brown dies at 78

By Daniel Borunda

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Harry S. "Hut" Brown, who had a long career as an educator and community volunteer died last week, four months after the opening of a middle school named in his honor. He was 78.

Brown was found dead Thursday in his East Side home by someone who went to check on him, police spokesman Javier Sambrano confirmed Monday.

"It is believed he died of natural causes because he suffered from several medical conditions," Sambrano said.



Brown

Brown was active in a variety of roles in the El Paso community, including football coach, a member for 42 years of the El Paso County Sheriff's Department Reserves and a chili aficionado. Information on funeral services was not available.

"It all keeps me off the couch," Brown told an El Paso Herald-Post columnist in 1992.

Brown, who was inducted into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame in 2000, was also involved with the Sun Bowl, the Southwest Livestock Show and Rodeo, Crime Stoppers of El Paso and was chairman of the board for the El Paso Teachers Credit Union.

Last August, Harry S. "Hut" Brown Middle School opened in West El Paso.

"I wish to express my deepest condolences to the Brown family," EPISD superintendent Lorenzo García said in a statement. "May the family find comfort in the fact that one of the most beautiful schools in the district bears his name and that his contributions to the students of the El Paso Independent School District will never be forgotten."

Brown was born in Del Rio and grew up in Sanderson, Texas, newspaper archives showed. In 1949, after graduating from Texas Christian University, Brown went to work as a teacher and coach in Fabens. That same year, he married Jacqueline Bramwell, who died in 2005. The Browns had two children, Jeff and Debbie. The family could not be reached for comment.

Brown rose through the education ranks. He was an assistant principal at Bassett Middle School and Andress High School. In 1962, he earned a master's degree from the University of Texas at El Paso. In 1969, he was appointed principal at Andress High School. In 1981, he was named the EPISD Associate Superintendent for the Northeast Area. In 1990, Brown retired but remained active.

BROWN

Harry S. "Hut" Brown, 78, loving brother, father, grandfather, and friend, died



December 13, 2007, in his home. Preceded in death by Jackie, his adored wife of 55 years, Hut is survived by son Jeff, daughter and son-in-law Debbie and Steve Overby,

grandsons Peter and Andrew Overby, all of Dallas, sister Marilyn Bell of San Angelo, brothers Joe N. Brown of Sonora and Tom Mansfield of El Paso, plus countless friends. Born May 28, 1929, in Del Rio, Texas, he graduated from Sanderson High School, received his Bachelor's degree from Texas Christian University, and his Master's from the University of Texas at El Paso. A mason, Hut was a member of Fraternity Lodge #1111, the El Paso Scottish Rite, and El Maida Shrine. He served for 14 years in the National Guard, and was a member of the American Legion Post #36. Commander of the El Paso County Sheriff's Reserve for 42 years, he became the oldest person to qualify as a Texas Master Peace Officer on their firing range. In 1975, he was named as the Texas Administrator of the Year by Texas School Librarians. In 2000, he was inducted into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame as a coach and administrator. Hut and Jackie served on the Sun Bowl Committee for 42

years. A member of Crime Stoppers, as well as the El Paso Historical Society, Hut portrayed John Wesley Hardin in several walks through history. A former member of the state of Texas Silver-Haired Legislature, he was currently serving as a member of the Legislative Committee of the Texas Retired Teachers Association. Active for 30 years in CASI, Chili Appreciation Society International, Hut not only cooked chili but also qualified for Terlingua several years, served as Executive Director for 8 years, and was currently serving as the Chairman of the CASI College Scholarship fund. EPISD recently honored Hut for his many years of service in education as teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal, area superintendent, and retired volunteer reading mentor, by naming their newest middle school for him. A memorial service will be held Friday, December 21, at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary of First Baptist Church, 805 Montana Ave. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the CASI Scholarship Fund, c/o Alan Dean, 112 Leaning Oak Circle, Johnson City, TX 78636. Services entrusted to Martin Funeral Home Central, 3839 Montana Ave., El Paso, Texas 79903. (915) 566-3955

