

LEECH

Leech, Dr. Robert Milton

June 23, 1921 – May 19, 2012

Dr. Robert Milton Leech, 90, of Sarasota, Florida, formerly of El Paso, Texas, passed away on May 19, 2012. He was predeceased in January of this year by his wife of 69 years, Carolyn Hotchkiss Leech.

Milton was born in Cameron, Texas, the eldest son of Annette Laird Leech and Robert Earl Leech. In 1942, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U. S. Army Air Corps. Discharged as a Captain from the U.S. Air Force in 1945, he was called up again in 1951 during the Korean Conflict.

He was a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, earning a B.F.A., an M.F.A. and, in 1962, a Ph.D in Drama and Education.

Dr. Leech spent his thirty-five-year career at the University of Texas at El Paso as both a professor and administrator. In the Department of Speech and Drama he was the producer-director of over fifty stage productions and the costume designer for an even greater number. Turning briefly to university administration from 1963 to 1971, he held numerous administrative positions, including Assistant to the President, Dean of Administration, Vice President and, in 1968-1969, Acting President. While in administration, he served as the Executive Director of MISSION '73, an El Paso citizens' committee

which made an intensive study of the University and published a ten-year plan for the institution. He is also the author of Comanche Eagle, a children's play about the famous Comanche chief Quanah Parker, which was debuted on campus in 1961 when UTEP was still Texas Western College. Dr. Leech retired in 1984 and was named Professor Emeritus of Drama and Speech.

Notable among his civic activities are his efforts on behalf of the Mental Health Association. He is a past president of the El Paso County Mental Health Association, a past president of the Texas Association for Mental Health, and a past Region IV Vice President of the National Association for Mental Health. He also served on the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army.

He is survived by his brother Ralph Leech of Rockdale, Texas; his daughter Janis Leech Blackman and son-in-law David of Sarasota, his daughter Susan Leech Allen and son-in-law Edmund of McKinney, Texas; two grandchildren, Janet Harris of Arlington, Texas, and L. Tyson Williams of Cypress, Texas; and great-grandchildren, Christian, Benjamin, Max and Skyler.

Gifts in his memory may be made to the University of Texas at El Paso, specified for the Dr. R. Milton Leech Endowed Fund for Drama, Kelly Hall, 6th Floor, 500 University Ave., El Paso, Texas, 79968.