

L.O. PAGE
Golfing Philanthropist
by Lenore Harris Hughes
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L.O. Page - a noted philanthropist realtor and avid golfer - died on the Fourth of July. He was 86.

“He was a man who had three loves,” said Marian, his wife of 13 years, “His God, his school (UTEP) and his country.”

L.O., who founded the first touchdown club for boosting UTEP athletics, was inducted into the Miners' Athletic Hall of Fame in 1981.

He was born in Goodlett, Texas, then moved with his family to Quanah, where L.O. played high school football and basketball.

His football skills led to scholarships, first at Wayland Junior College and then Texas College of Mines - now UTEP - where he graduated in 1936 with a bachelor's degree in history.

“During his first year on the Miner football team, L.O. helped make the only winning score with a deep place kick,” Marian said. “They had no uniforms, just pants and jerseys - no protection such as the teams have today.”

“To stay in school he did everything that was legal to earn a dollar,” she said. “He bought 100 peanut machines and placed them all over town, with a penny and a dime inside as lures; he ran the night elevator at the International building and sold advertising for the *Miner Magazine*.”

Marian said that when this big, good-looking man approached merchants for ads, they took one look at him and when he said

“Now you would like to buy an ad, wouldn't you?” They usually answered “Yes.”

L.O. was an Army first lieutenant during World War II, serving with George Patton's 3rd Army in Europe. His decorations include the Presidential Unit Citation.

Back in El Paso, in 1946, Page began a 30-year career as a manager for CIT Credit Corporation.



During the 1950s he met and married Nettie Bee, a high school principal at Fort Bliss who died in 1978. During those years, he

spent a lot of time playing golf. An item in the May 4, 1969, *El Paso Times* noted: "L.O. Page fired a hole-in-one on the third at Del Norte Golf and Country club Sunday. He used a wedge on the 130-yard hole."

When L.O. retired from CIT Credit, he founded a contracting company to build low-income apartments.

"He was a jack-of-all- trades," said Marian. "He bought nice-looking mobile homes and developed P.M.H. Inc, forming a partnership with Wayne King of El Paso."

In 1984, he met and married Marian Townsdin.

"We had been friends with the same people and went to the same places, but didn't meet until my boss introduced us at a party," she said.

He was a life member of the BPOE 187 Elks Lodge, was listed in the 1982 Who's Who in Texas Realtors and was a member of the National Association of Realtors.

Family and friends said he donated - anonymously - to UTEP, the Salvation Army, St. Jude's Hospital and the Paralyzed Veterans organization, among others.

"During the 13 years I've known him, I've never known a person who came to Page for help that went away empty-handed," Marian said.

He is survived by his wife; his brother, Eugene Page of Amarillo; sister Lorraine Hood of Dallas; and granddaughter Donna Jean Young of North Carolina.

A memorial service was held before his ashes were buried in Fort Bliss National Cemetery.

Retired Lt. Col. Jerry Benedict, a friend of 25 years, said of L.O.: "He was a very uplifting person to know, well-respected by everyone, and with such a great sense of humor."

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