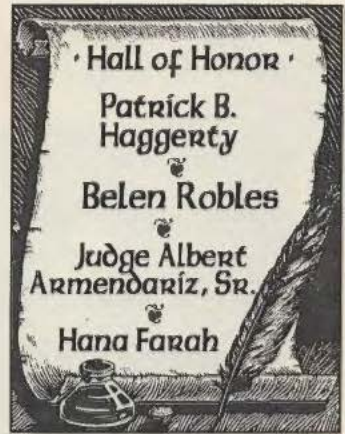


· Hall of Honor ·
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Hana Farah



Hana Farah was born in Baskinta, Lebanon (east of Beirut) in 1896. While in her teens, she, with her family, immigrated to Springfield, Massachusetts. Her soon-to-be husband, Mansour, also immigrated to the same community from the same town in Lebanon. The two

met in Springfield and married in 1915 in a marriage arranged by the families.

Not long after, Mansour and his brother moved to Las Cruces, New Mexico where they established a dry goods store, opened the first movie theater in Las Cruces and also operated a hay brokerage business. Mansour became interested in opening a manufacturing business and in 1920 moved to El Paso where he opened the Farah Shirt Manufacturing Company.

The couple had two sons, James and William. Hana began working at the new company where she focused on sewing quality. Mansour died in 1937 after which Hana and James took over the operation of the company with James managing the financing and Hana running the factory.

Three days before the United States plunged into World War II, William Farah enlisted in the Army Air Force to begin his training as a combat pilot. Within weeks after war was declared, nearly every man at Farah went to war. During the war, Farah Manufacturing shifted production to military uniforms and earned the Army/Navy "E" award for excellence—the first to be made to any plant west of the Mississippi River. Farah's cutters showed such skill and economy in handling materials that they saved 50,000 yards of cloth on one contract alone, returning the savings to the government. In all, Farah Manufacturing produced 359,000 pairs of military pants without having one rejected. The plant also enjoyed such loyalty and dedication from its staff that



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it once logged five straight weeks without a single person being absent from his post.

After James' untimely death, William took over the company and guided Farah Manufacturing into being an international sportswear company with over \$400 million a year in sales worldwide. At its peak, Farah was the largest civilian employer in the city, employing over 10,000 people. On July 14, 1967, Farah Manufacturing became a publically held company.

In 1964 Hana endowed a UTEP nursing scholarship in memory of her husband, Mansour, and son, James. This scholarship helps El Paso nurses gain their education. Over the years, the Farah family continued to make significant contributions to the El Paso Cancer Treatment Center, the Policeman's Survivor Fund, UTEP, and the Lee and Beulah Moore Children's Home.

In 2010, the City of El Paso proclaimed May 21 as Farah Day. The El Paso Museum of History honored Farah Manufacturing with an exhibition created for its series entitled "Awakening Our Giants, Celebrating Our Firsts." The honor is shared with Hana Farah whose work ethic, passion and perseverance helped establish a company that changed the course of El Paso's history.