

Van D. Howbert



Longtime Midland resident, Van D. Howbert, died Monday, October 10, unexpectedly and peacefully, in his home. A private burial will be held Friday morning. A memorial service is scheduled for 11:00 a.m., Friday, at St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, with the Reverend James Liggett officiating. Van was born in Denver, Colorado, on November 27, 1926, to Van Dyne and Helen Howbert. He graduated from East High School in Denver, in 1944. Van served with the United States Army Engineers from 1945-1947 and was stationed in Italy. He graduated from Colorado School of Mines in 1951, with a degree in Geological Engineering. While at Mines, he was a member of Beta Theta Pi, serving as Chapter President; Theta Tau; and Blue Key. On September 11, 1948, Van married his junior high and high school classmate, Doris Livingston. Upon his graduation from Mines and the birth of their first daughter in 1951, Van was hired by Honolulu Oil Corporation in Midland, as an exploration geologist. When the company sold in 1961, Van worked as an independent geologist, before becoming the Executive Director of the Permian Basin Conservative Committee in 1963, where he promoted the presidential candidacy of Barry Goldwater, in West Texas. After another brief period of being independent, Van worked for King Resources for two years. In 1971, he was part owner of Capataz Corporation, with his long-time friend, Howard E. Davis. After the company was dissolved, Van formed Howbert and Howbert, with his son, where he worked until his death. Van was a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists, West Texas Geological Society, Independent Petroleum Association of America, and Permian Basin Petroleum Association. He was very active in the Midland County Republican Party for many years, as the yard signs that line his garage walls prove. For many years, Van enjoyed his twice-weekly lunches with his buddies at Luigi's and The Bar. He was preceded in death by his wife, Doris and his grandson, Seth Hancock. He is survived by his three children, Joan Whitt and husband, Robert, Charles L. Howbert and wife, Paula, and Jill Howbert Russell and husband, Barry, all of Midland. He was Gaddy and Say to his seven grandchildren, Lauren Pace, Sarah Varner and husband, Rich, Andrew Hancock and wife, Maria, Sean Hancock, Heather Coleman and husband, Ted, and Chas Howbert. For the past seven years, his life was enriched by his relationship with his special friend, Linda George. Van is also survived by his cousin, Nancy Long, who referred to him as Brud; and two nephews, Van and Bruce Howbert. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hospice Midland or to the William and Grace Waldschmidt Scholarship Fund, Colorado School of Mines Foundation, P.O. Box 4005, Golden, Colorado, 80401-0005, or a charity of one's choice. Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com.