



## George T. Fleet Jr.

November 2, 1928 - August 11, 2022

George Thurman Fleet, Jr., born November 2, 1928 at Station Hospital, Fort Sam Houston, passed peacefully in San Antonio, Texas on August 11, 2022 at age 93. George was preceded in death by his parents, Captain/Dr. Thurman Fleet and Delia Fleet (née Wright); his three sisters, Vivienne, Thurma, and Patsy; and so many life-long friends.

George received a Catholic education as a student at St. Peter's School in Alamo Heights and Central Catholic High School. While at Central, he proudly served in the R.O.T.C. until graduation in 1945. He completed his formal education at St. Mary's University graduating in 1949 with a B.A. in Sociology.

On July 22, 1950, George Fleet and Mary Afton Wynn White exchanged vows at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church and their union endured for 72 years.

Following duty as an officer in the Texas Army National Guard, George worked at various positions, but found his home at Samuels Glass Company in 1955. Starting in sales, he rose to Executive Vice President in 1967. While at Samuels, George was a member of the National Glass Association (NGA). He testified before the Consumer Product Safety Commission in Washington, D.C., spearheading the drive to mandate new safety glazing laws in both residential and commercial structures. George Fleet's effort resulted in new regulations that have reduced and eliminated thousands of severe lacerative

injuries and deaths over the years. In 1981, George was named President of the NGA and was recognized as Glass Dealer of the year by Glass Digest Magazine.

George's years at Samuels Glass were fruitful and happy ones. While not everyone held a fondness for their boss, all would say George Fleet was fair and square. He was proud to know every one of the 100 employees by name and many of their spouses and children, too. Most folks at Samuels were not just colleagues but friends.

In 1977, upon invitation, George joined the Rotary Club of San Antonio, among the largest Rotary Clubs in the world, proudly serving the club as President in 1988-89. A highlight that year saw George manage the club's sponsorship of the Grand Prix race held in San Antonio. He recruited Samuels employees to work the event, and all will recall the work and fun they enjoyed at the Grand Prix. George esteemed the service ethics of the Rotary Club and the camaraderie of their weekly meetings. He was pleased to be an honorary Rotary member until his death.

In 1988, at age 60, George retired from Samuels Glass Company and shifted his dedication to the Concept -Therapy Institute founded by his father in 1934. He served as President and Chairman of the board until his retirement in 2013.

On the home front, George was a faithful husband and devoted father. He brightened his home with good humor and generosity. His family relied on his steady temperament and empathy during difficult times and he was never without a patient ear and encouraging words for his girls. He relished his grandfather role providing Teddy and Afton countless wagon rides, visits to the carrousel at Central Park Mall, and outings to Kiddie Park. He also treated them to the Fleet Home Tour, a family classic, that included a drive-by of the many homes his family lived in during his youth in Alamo Heights and

Government Hill. The tour always culminated with a stop at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery to pay homage to his father and mother at their grave. He delighted in his great-granddaughter, Audrey, whom he adored watching swim.

George is survived by his wife of 72 years, Mary Fleet; daughters, Mary Kay Fleet and Margaret Delia Fleet Pryor, and her spouse Reginald Pryor; grandchildren, Theodore Fleet Dearing and Afton Kay Dearing, and her fiancé, Dr. Charles Swanson; and great-granddaughter, Audrey Wynn Romanetto; and many in-laws, nieces and nephews.

The Fleet family is grateful to Mary Lorenz, Janet Penaloza, Darlene Jones, and Maria Gonzalez for their compassionate care, tireless effort, good cheer, and love they've given our family.

Memorials in George Fleet's honor may be made to:

Central Catholic High School  
1403 N. St. Mary's Street  
San Antonio, TX 78215