



## James Bruce Bugg Jr.

October 29, 1954 - August 6, 2025

James Bruce Bugg, Jr., a pillar of the San Antonio community, passed away August 6, 2025 due to complications from surgery after a private battle with cancer. He was 70 years old.

Bruce was born in Springfield, Missouri on October 29, 1954 to Jim and Norma Bugg and adoring sister Diana.

At an age when peers were reading comic books, Bruce read the Wall Street Journal every morning, and he developed a passion for finance and stock trading.

In high school, at age 15, Bruce began his long career in banking by working in the mailroom of Commerce Bank in Springfield, learning about the different parts of the business as he delivered mail. A longtime participant in Boy Scouts of America, at 17, Bruce attained the rank of Eagle Scout. He was proud of the fact that both of his sons, under his guidance, also became Eagle Scouts.

He attended SMU in Dallas, where he received an undergraduate degree in business and a Juris Doctor. In 1979, Bruce made the move to San Antonio to establish the tax division at the law firm of Groce, Locke & Hebdon.

Never one to coast on prior success, Bruce started a bank holding company in 1983 at the age of 29 and brought together a group of investors to buy The Bank of San Antonio. In 1986, Bruce launched his own solo law practice, providing tax guidance to important figures in the San Antonio community such as Quincy Lee and Robert L.B. Tobin.

In 1995, at age 41, Bruce sold the Bank of San Antonio and retired from law practice.

In 1999, his former client Robert L.B. Tobin entrusted Bruce and fellow attorney Leroy Denman to oversee his estate and the formation of the Tobin Endowment. Under Bruce's leadership, the Tobin Endowment has been a major supporter of organizations championed by Tobin during his lifetime, including the McNay Art Museum, where Bruce served as Trustee, Texas Biomedical Research Institute, San Antonio Youth Literacy, and the Santa Fe Opera, where Bruce served on the Board for over 20 years.

A man of vision with an immense love for the San Antonio community, Bruce found success in both the public and private sectors. He founded Texas Partners Bank in 2007, and in addition co-founded the Bexar County Performing Arts Center and the Tobin Center for Performing Arts with former Mayor Phil Hardberger and former County Judge Nelson Wolff. During the 2020 pandemic, he co-founded Community Labs with Graham Weston and Tullos Wells to provide free Covid testing.

Bruce brought his unbounded energy, pragmatic leadership, and strategic thinking to every role he took on. He was especially proud of his years of public service to the State of Texas, most notably having been appointed by Governor Greg Abbott to the Texas Department of Transportation Commission, where he served for 10 years, including 8 years as Chairman. Before TxDOT, Bruce was appointed by Governor Rick Perry as Chairman

and President of the Texas Economic Development Corporation and as appointee to the Board of Directors of Humanities Texas.

Throughout all of his endeavors, Bruce's life was driven by his passion for people and a desire to develop relationships wherever he went. He was also a man of strong faith, and a member of First Presbyterian Church San Antonio.

In his spare time, Bruce loved to travel, especially with his family to the South of France, and to his ranch in Bandera, Texas, where he spent most weekends with a good glass of champagne, watching the sunset and listening to opera. Bruce was a proud member of the Argyle Club, the San Antonio Country Club, Club Giraud, the San Antonio German Club, the Bohemian Club, and the Pacific Union Club.

Bruce is survived by his proud and loving family: his wife of 34 years, Alethea; and his two sons, James Bruce Bugg III (Jim) and Thomas Andrew Bugg (Tom); his sister, Diana and her husband, Jim Bertlesman of Sonoma, CA; his cousins, Susie and David Turner of Springfield, MO; brothers in law Tod Swann and wife Laura of Waco, TX, and Andy Swann and wife Rosemary of Tyler, TX.

He will be missed by his many friends and the San Antonio community.

A Memorial Service will be held for Bruce Wednesday, August 20th at 10:00 a.m. at the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts, 100 Auditorium Circle, San Antonio, Texas. Officiated by Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller of First Presbyterian Church.

A private family interment at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin, TX.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be directed

towards:

Tobin Center for the Performing Arts  
100 Auditorium Circle, San Antonio, TX 78205.

The Texas Biomedical Research Institute  
PO Box 760549, San Antonio, TX 78245.

First Presbyterian Church  
404 N. Alamo Street, San Antonio, TX 78205

Or any charity of your choice.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

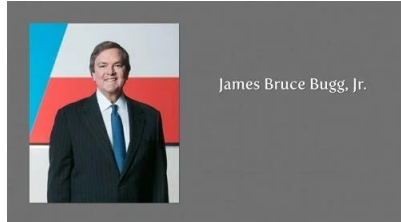
AUG **20**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Tobin Center for the Performing Arts  
100 Auditorium Circle  
San Antonio, TX 78205

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemeteries created a Tribute Video in memory of James Bruce Bugg Jr.*



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**Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery** - August 21, 2025 at 08:47 AM



“ *Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemeteries created a Webcast in memory of James Bruce Bugg Jr.*



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**Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery** - August 17, 2025 at 11:52 AM

BF

“ We mourn the loss of a dear friend, Bruce, whose warmth and steady presence marked countless afternoons and evenings we spent together. Whether in quiet conversation or shared laughter, he offered a fellowship that felt both comforting and genuine. Bruce had a way of listening that made every moment feel significant. His friendships were rooted in trust and unspoken understanding. I will miss his thoughtfulness, his ready smile, and the calm strength he carried in his companionship. My deepest condolences go out to all who knew him. May we carry forward his spirit of camaraderie and find solace in the memories we forged together. Bob Fisher

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**Bob Fisher** - August 20, 2025 at 09:55 AM

FK

God bless.

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**Frances Kendall** - November 23, 2025 at 06:31 AM

FK

God Bless!

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**Frances Kendall** - November 23, 2025 at 06:33 AM

SF

“ Swann Family purchased the Divine Light for the family of James Bruce Bugg Jr..



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**Swann Family** - August 19, 2025 at 02:07 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of James Bruce Bugg Jr..*



August 18, 2025 at 04:54 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Bruce Bugg Jr..*



August 18, 2025 at 01:58 PM



“ *Bruce has been a great friend and mentor. Texas has lost one of its most exceptional individuals. I will miss him terribly, but his memory and dedication to service will inspire each of to continue to make Texas even greater through our efforts in his stead. I imagine Heaven has better golden highways already. My thoughts and prayers are with Alethea and their family.*

*Dawn Buckingham, MD  
Texas Land Commissioner*

**Dawn Buckingham** - August 18, 2025 at 01:17 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of James Bruce Bugg Jr..*



August 18, 2025 at 10:14 AM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Bruce Bugg Jr..*



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August 15, 2025 at 03:10 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of James Bruce Bugg Jr..*



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August 14, 2025 at 12:45 PM



“ *Celestial Love was purchased for the family of James Bruce Bugg Jr..*



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August 14, 2025 at 10:18 AM



“ *Bruce was as fine a gentleman as you would ever meet and excelled in business, legal, and governmental circles. One of my fondest memories was when he gave piggy-back rides to my entire six-year-old birthday party in 1970. We admired him then and the admiration has grown continuously. He will be missed.*

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**Kent Ragan** - August 14, 2025 at 07:51 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of James Bruce Bugg Jr..*



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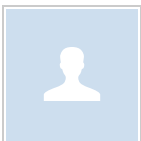
August 13, 2025 at 02:32 PM



“ *My sincerest condolences to the Bugg family. Bruce was such a kind and philanthropic person. In addition to the many achievements in the banking, transportation, and business world, he made a huge difference in the performing arts sector in San Antonio and Santa Fe. The founding of the former Chamber Orchestra of San Antonio (now Classical Music Institute and subsequently the new Orchestra San Antonio) was made possible with its largest gift thanks to Bruce's support. He believed in San Antonio having world-class performing arts. I personally am grateful for his support in so many causes that have impacted this community in such a significant manner. He will be missed. Mario Vazquez*

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**Mario A Vazquez** - August 12, 2025 at 05:16 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Bruce Bugg Jr..*



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August 11, 2025 at 01:11 PM

AA

“ We were all Blessed to know Bruce and witness his love and passion for this city, this state, and his family. He will be missed but his memory will live on through the music, dance, and many other performances that come to life in the TOBIN CENTER. THANK YOU BRUCE for making this world a better place for so many.

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**April Ancira** - August 11, 2025 at 01:08 PM

PR

“ Bruce was a great leader in Texas and I enjoyed so many interactions and discussions with him as Chairman of TXDOT. Truly an extraordinary leader, man and friend. He will be missed by many. Special Assistant to the President of the United States (former) Patrick Rhode

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**Patrick Rhode** - August 11, 2025 at 11:10 AM

RC

“ I am so deeply saddened by the sudden passing of my dear friend Bruce Bugg. He was not only a remarkable business leader, but also a generous supporter of the arts and culture that enrich our community. His vision, leadership, and commitment to making San Antonio-and our state-a better place will be greatly missed. Suzanne and I send our thoughts and prayers to Alethia and all her family. We all are blessed to have known Bruce.

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**Rick Cavender** - August 11, 2025 at 11:08 AM



“ I was President of Bruce's pledge class at SMU. He was proud Phi Delta Theta!! I will miss him greatly!! YITB< Chris Woldert

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**Chris Woldert** - August 10, 2025 at 06:41 PM