



Reba N. Malone

December 12, 1934 - June 26, 2024

Reba Malone was born in San Antonio, Texas on December 12, 1934. She went to be with the Lord on June 26, 2024, at the age of 89. Reba will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her. She is preceded in death by her parents Ernest and Irene Nieman; late husband Thomas “Gene” E. Malone III; and sister Frances K. Garrett. She is survived by her brother Ernest “Buddy” Nieman (Doretha), brother-in-law Walter Garrett, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Reba graduated Valedictorian from May High School in 1953, began her career with the San Antonio Housing Authority and also worked for Coca Cola Bottling Co. She served as the Executive Director of the Southside Chamber of Commerce, which she helped organize in 1982. Reba, a longtime San Antonio community leader was active in transit issues. She served as a member of the Via Metropolitan Transit Board for nine years, during which time she also served as secretary. This led to a career position with Chance Coach/Optima Bus traveling the world selling transit buses. Upon retirement she started her own business, Reba Malone & Associates, serving as a transportation consultant. She also worked as property manager for Minten Plaza for years.

Reba was elected chairperson of the American Public Transit Association, which made her the first leader from the Southwest region of the United

States and the first woman to hold that office. She was instrumental in opening the door for women in the public transportation industry.

Reba always credited her success and accomplishments in transit to her involvement in the Business and Professional Women's Club. She helped to start the Southeast Business and Professional Women's Club in San Antonio in 1974 and served as President for her local organization in 1975. She rose through the ranks of district and state offices, ultimately serving as President of the Texas Federation of BPW Clubs in 1985-1986.

Reba has an impressive record of service to the community. She served on numerous boards and commissions of local, state, and national governmental entities and organizations dealing with education, the arts, economic development, and transportation. Some of those include Southwest Transit Association, Department of Transportation, Public Transportation Advisory Council, Texas Transit Board of Directors, and the Airport Advisory Board. Reba was an active member of her neighborhood association, served on the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame Board, Brooks Development Authority, The Fifth Army Community Council of San Antonio, Market Square Advisory Board, Texas Women's Forum, and the Baptist Hospital Board. Other memberships included The League of Women Voters, Beautify San Antonio Association, and Alamo Area Council of Governments and Human Resources Committee. She was also a member of the San Antonio Council of Presidents and the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo Souvenir Program Committee.

Reba has given her energy and vision to such causes as Palo Alto College, upgrading of Stinson Field, and worked with many investors to bring new development to the Southside of San Antonio. Her leadership and service in the community have been recognized with several awards and honors including, San Antonio Express News Outstanding Woman of the Year in 1979, SEBPW Club Woman of the year in 1976-1977, and San Antonio Light's

Today's Woman in 1982. She was the first woman selected for the Friend of Texas Transit Award for outstanding service in the development of transit in Texas. Reba was inducted into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame in 1987. South San Antonio Chamber of Commerce honored Reba as a legend in 2012 for her 40 years of service to the Southside through numerous positions. The Southside of San Antonio was something special to Reba Malone.

Reba was a member of Travis Park Church. She was a bowler in her earlier years bowling at Broadway Lanes, Turner Club, and Highland Social Club. She enjoyed beach trips and family gatherings at Holiday Beach. She was an avid shopper and loved arts and crafts, music, and supporting and cheering on the Dallas Cowboys and San Antonio Spurs.

Special thanks to the nurses, caretakers, and staff at Franklin Park and Embrace Hospice for the love and care.

Visitation will be on Tuesday, July 2, 2024, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Mission Park Funeral Chapels South. Funeral Service will be on Wednesday, July 3, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at Mission Park South. Interment will follow in Mission Burial Park South.

Cemetery Details

Mission Burial Park South

1700 SE Military Dr.
San Antonio, TX 78214
<http://www.missionparks.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 2. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels South, Cemeteries & Crematories
1700 SE Military Dr
San Antonio, TX 78214
(210) 924-4242
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Funeral Service

JUL 3. 1:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels South, Cemeteries & Crematories
1700 SE Military Dr
San Antonio, TX 78214
(210) 924-4242
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Tribute Wall

RL

“ *Reba took me under her wing as a fairly new spouse in APTA. Will always remember her driving me on the back roads in Texas, hitting 80 + to make time! Taking us to our now favorite San Antonio restaurant and getting placed immediately because....my gosh, it was Reba! We will miss her greatly*

reba LaRusch - September 28, 2024 at 09:30 AM

AJ

“ *Reba was not only a pioneer as the first executive director of the Southside Chamber of Commerce but also a beloved leader and mentor to many. Her dedication and vision laid the foundation for the successes we continue to build upon today. As someone who had the honor of following in her footsteps as CEO, I am profoundly grateful for the path she paved and the legacy she left behind. My heartfelt condolences go out to her family and all who were touched by her remarkable spirit. Reba's contributions will forever be remembered and cherished.*

Al Arreola Jr - July 02, 2024 at 02:27 PM

DS

“ Reba was a person who wanted those around her to have more opportunities and a better community. Her work in San Antonio with the Southeast Business and Professional Women’s Club (BPW) allowed many women to build their skills in public speaking as well as build confidence to serve the community. Reba expected a lot out of people, however, it was never more than she expected of herself or gave of herself. She was a mentor to women in San Antonio as well as statewide through her leadership as a committee member, officer and president of the Texas BPW Clubs. Her accomplishments and service to the community will be preserved in the local archives. My prayers and condolences to her family. Doris Slay-Barber

Doris Slay-Barber - July 02, 2024 at 11:39 AM

SS

“ Reba was a dynamo and dedicated to advancing public transportation. She frequently spoke about how San Antonio could and should better serve our residents. Reba was a positive force in my professional life as city manager and always had a thoughtful idea or word of encouragement to share. Women like Reba are far and few between. We will miss her and her tenacity. With sympathy and condolences to her family, Sheryl Sculley

Sheryl Sculley - July 01, 2024 at 05:59 PM

W(

“ With sympathy, Opportunity Home (SAHA) purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Reba N. Malone.



With sympathy, Opportunity Home (SAHA) - July 01, 2024 at 02:41 PM

BB

“ *Reba & brother Buddy were good friends in school at May high School. So sorry to hear of her death. My condolences for family.*
Betty (Rankin) Barnhill

Betty Barnhill - July 01, 2024 at 02:04 PM

PH

“ *Reba was a person that worked constantly for the community. She was also very active in the San Antonio stock Show and Rodeo for many years. She always gave 100%.*

Pat Halpin - June 30, 2024 at 04:00 PM

EN

“ *Ernest N. purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Reba N. Malone.*



Ernest N. - June 29, 2024 at 06:34 PM

NB

“ *Reba most definitely was a wonderful strength and move & shaker for the Southeast side of San Antonio. I will be forever thankful to her for her unwavering determination. Heartfelt sympathies to her loved ones*
Neesie Beal

Neesie Beal - June 29, 2024 at 12:06 PM

GS

“ *Reba was a mentor and example to me as a young woman through BPW Texas. She encouraged me to run for state office and through that experience I became state president as a young woman. The skills she exhibited in parliamentary procedure and sticking with a goal until it was accomplished were significant and instructive to me. I have thought about her many times over the years and I hope she knew I appreciated her.* Glynis Holm Strause

Glynis Strause - June 28, 2024 at 12:08 PM