

Neal D. Cannon, Jr.
Obituary

Neal D. Cannon, Jr. died on May 25, 2024. He was born on March 2, 1940 in Jacksonville, Texas. He is survived by his wife, Linda Muncey Cannon, and cousins, Clarence Gilmore, Jr., Cannon McCreary, Lillian Cochran, and godson, Terrill Boudreaux. His parents, Neal D. Cannon and Fay Kennedy Cannon, predeceased him. He attended Poe Elementary, Lanier Junior High and Lamar High School in Houston. He graduated from Southern Methodist University and The University of Texas School of Law.

Immediately after passing the Texas Bar exam, he traveled extensively throughout Europe getting to know other countries, cultures and people. Neal was a trial lawyer in Houston for over fifty-eight years. He was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States, The Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and the U.S. District Courts for the Southern, Eastern and Western Districts of Texas. He was a member of the College of the State Bar of Texas and served as a Director of the Houston Bar Association Litigation Section. In court, as in life, Neal's word was his bond. Opposing counsel and judges alike could always depend on what he said or promised. At Southern Methodist University he was a member of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, and he was president of the Houston alumni club for several years. Neal was also a member of The Explorers Club, and he was chairman of the Texas Chapter for two years. He was also a member of the Downtown Kiwanis Club of Houston, serving for a time as president of the club. He is a member of St. Luke's United Methodist Church, and a former member of Chapelwood United Methodist Church.

Neal always looked forward to spending time with his many friends, and enjoyed a wide range of hobbies. He was a voracious reader, reading constantly and often several books at the same time. Neal loved the outdoors. As a child and teen-ager, he enjoyed swimming. He was also an avid river rafter and, with his rafting group, rafted all over the western United States - the Middle Fork of the Salmon, several sections of the Green, the Yampa and the San Juan. He rafted the Colorado through the Grand Canyon five times, each trip being seventeen days. Every summer he could not wait to leave for rafting, and Linda could not wait for him to leave to enjoy peace and quiet. In the fall he enjoyed bird hunting with his hunting buddies. Neal was a committed sailor, sailing his boat in the fall, winter and spring with his partner and many friends. However, few things pleased him more than to invite friends over for dinner. He and Linda would spend a great deal of time planning menus, and Neal would cook while Linda decorated the table.

Neal was a gourmet chef and his dinners were multi-course, often taking several days to prepare. The conversation around the table over a long dinner was what he enjoyed most. Neal and Linda always tried to have a range of guests with different philosophies and politics so the discussions were always lively. Neal never shied away from political discussions, believing that civil discourse was the best way for all to learn. A memorial service will be held at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 3471 Westheimer Rd, Houston, Texas, on June 20, 2024, at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon, with Reverend Cliff Ritter officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choice. For those unable to attend, viewing is available at <https://stlukesmethodist.org/Neal-Cannon/>