

A PUBLICATION
FOR THE FRIENDS OF
MEMORIAL HERMANN

.....
Memorial Hermann Foundation
Summer 2022

ADVANCING THE

VISION

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DEAR FRIENDS,



What a great summer! Escaping Houston's heat for our "Elevated Connections" retreat in Aspen with our Foundation friends and board members was wonderful. I so appreciate Melissa Juneau and Leticia Trauber for hosting the main event.

This year's event focused on Memorial Hermann Life Flight®. So, it was especially gratifying to recognize Rob Wilson and Mike Lowenberg during the festivities for The John M. O'Quinn Foundation's \$5 million gift, the lead gift toward our \$42 million initiative to replace the Life Flight fleet.

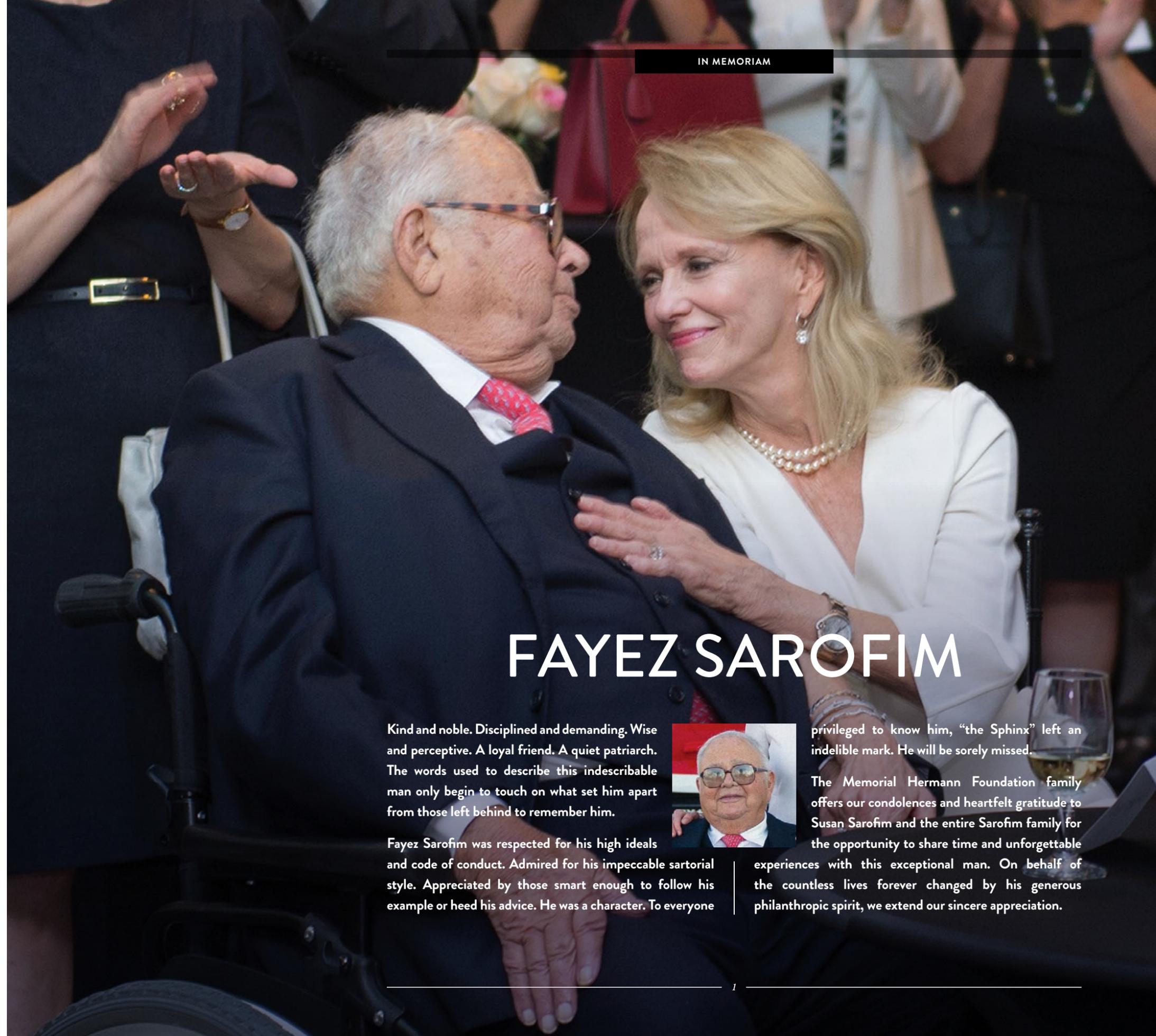
In this issue, we present a conversation with Bryan Sisk, the System's new chief nursing executive, about his exciting plans to build on Memorial Hermann's exceptional nursing legacy.

We also share two inspiring stories of grateful patients who have regained their quality of life at TIRR Memorial Hermann.

Every day is a new opportunity to appreciate what we have and share our gifts. Nothing brings this to light more clearly than the loss of special people in our lives. Faye Sarofim is certainly one of those. His quiet grace and extraordinary support of our community and Memorial Hermann over many, many years will never be forgotten. When he toured Sarofim Pavilion, he said, "It's good to be associated with high quality." These words mean so much coming from him.

Thank you all for your friendship and support.

Anne E. Neeson
Executive Vice President & CEO
Memorial Hermann Foundation



FAYEZ SAROFIM

Kind and noble. Disciplined and demanding. Wise and perceptive. A loyal friend. A quiet patriarch. The words used to describe this indescribable man only begin to touch on what set him apart from those left behind to remember him.



Faye Sarofim was respected for his high ideals and code of conduct. Admired for his impeccable sartorial style. Appreciated by those smart enough to follow his example or heed his advice. He was a character. To everyone

privileged to know him, "the Sphinx" left an indelible mark. He will be sorely missed.

The Memorial Hermann Foundation family offers our condolences and heartfelt gratitude to Susan Sarofim and the entire Sarofim family for the opportunity to share time and unforgettable experiences with this exceptional man. On behalf of the countless lives forever changed by his generous philanthropic spirit, we extend our sincere appreciation.

POWER TO THE INNOVATORS

Bryan Sisk and Toni Von Wenckstern offer their candid observations about building upon Memorial Hermann's proud and nationally renowned legacy of exceptional nursing.

Memorial Hermann named Bryan Sisk as the System's senior vice president and chief nursing executive in March of this year. Toni Von Wenckstern, vice president and chief nursing officer of Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, has been a part of the Memorial Hermann family for 30 years.

We were fortunate to get together with these consummate nursing professionals recently for their thoughts on the next evolution of nursing. Here are the highlights.

Q: Bryan, as the System's newest nursing leader, what inspired you to join Memorial Hermann?

Bryan: For me, it was the connection to the community. Being in the military for 20 years and in the VA system for

another 10, service is deep in me. Memorial Hermann's mission of making the community better for generations is real. There's also the System's national reputation for quality.

Q. Toni, after 26 years at Memorial Hermann, you left, briefly, in 2018. What inspired you to come back to TMC?

Toni: I would also say the community. When I came back to interview, I walked into the area where the old chapel is to see if I'd have the same feeling of pride and culture and togetherness I remembered. And I did.

Q. So what would you say is special about the nurses you work with?

Toni: There are a lot of firsts that our nurses were a part of. It's pioneering work. This system is well known for what our nurses have done throughout the years. There's pride with that.



Bryan Sisk

"We've talked about quality and speed to care, but mostly, this is about creating an environment where nurses thrive. If we can do that, I think we win."

Bryan: As I've been rounding with nurses, I've been so impressed. We have such an amazing pool of talent. The question is, how do we wrap our system around it and become the benchmark in the industry?

Q. Yes, let's talk about that. What is your vision for the future of nursing at Memorial Hermann?

Bryan: One of the things we're looking at is a nursing strategy where we provide the highest-quality, safest care possible in a way that brings our facilities together as a system, connects us more deeply with our community and wraps in our academic partners.

Toni: I think the challenges are to get nurses to realize and believe how powerful they are. They want empowerment. Our job to figure out how to make that happen.

Bryan: We need to continue to surround our nurses with the resources and support they need. That makes nursing better, which makes our patients better, which makes our community better.

Toni: If we can train them on how to look at quality and understand the business, then they can solve problems at the bedside. And they're going to be empowered to feel like what they do matters.

Q. If money were no object, what would you like to see happen at Memorial Hermann?

Bryan: Being able to invest in innovation at a faster rate, to have a unit dedicated to innovation, where we can try

things quickly and hear the nurses' viewpoint: What makes a difference? We learned from COVID. Innovation came fast and furious. It was amazing to watch the team.

Toni: That's why Bryan's helping us get an innovation lab. It's a think tank. A place where nurses can bring their ideas and get them tested.

Bryan: In two or three days versus two or three months or years.

Toni: That's when nurses get excited because they see change.

Bryan: Where Toni and I really align is about leaving a legacy for nursing. The idea behind the institute, a center of innovation, is to establish Memorial Hermann as a national leader in nursing excellence, research and quality.



Toni Von Wenckstern

"This is a great, amazing place. It gets under your skin. And that is a wonderful thing. It becomes your heart and soul. It is *that* place."

Toni: We also want to look at pay programs that make sense. Nurses want to make money. And we want them to make money—for great outcomes, making patients better, coming up with great ideas—not just for becoming managers.

Bryan: Nursing is hard work. It's demanding mentally and physically. So how do we surround nurses with a work environment where you want to come to work every day, you feel refreshed, and you have the tools at the bedside to do your job? Because, ultimately, that's what our nurses and our patients deserve.



MAJOR INSPIRATION

A YOUNG BOY GETS BACK TO THE
BUSINESS OF CHILDHOOD

An active 7-year-old who loved performing on TikTok, Major Hudlin suddenly couldn't lift his right arm or move the fingers on his right hand. His mother, Kenisha Aldridge, immediately drove him to the hospital emergency room near their home in Wharton, Texas. From there, he was helicoptered to the Level 1 pediatric trauma center at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital, where he was diagnosed with a stroke.



Major suffers from sickle cell disease, an inherited disorder in which red blood cells become crescent-shaped, hindering their movement through small blood vessels—a condition commonly resulting in stroke. After a week in intensive care, he was transferred to TIRR Memorial Hermann's new pediatric inpatient unit to begin rehabilitation.

"He came to us with significant right-sided hemiparesis," said affiliated physician Stacey Hall, DO, a pediatric physiatrist and clinical assistant professor of pediatric rehabilitation medicine at McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston. In layman's terms, the right side of his body was completely paralyzed.

Making a game of serious rehabilitation

In addition to helping Major regain the use of his hand and arm, his therapy team also worked to improve his balance, lower-extremity strength, and endurance, all of which had also been affected by the stroke. To restore him to his active self, they took a creative approach.

"We played games within a story Major created for us," said his physical therapist Amelie Bordelon, PT. *"We climbed to the top of 'Stairwell Mountains' and drove scooter board 'race cars' through obstacle courses."*

"He loved every one of his caregivers at TIRR Memorial Hermann."

Major Hudlin's mom, Kenisha

Major's speech and ability to swallow were also affected by the stroke, so the team placed him on a modified diet with supplemental intake through a tube placed past his throat and into his stomach. Thanks to hard work and active engagement during his sessions, they were soon able to remove the tube, allowing him to get back to a regular diet.

Creative strategies to meet verbal challenges

To address the challenge of verbal communication, the team employed melodic intonation, pacing strategies, and syllable segmentation, giving Major more control over his speech patterns. Achieving maximum benefit from any treatment depends heavily on establishing rapport between patient and clinician. Here, it's a priority.

"Our favorite book was If You Give a Pig a Pancake," said his speech therapist Sabrina Casso Filoteo. *"We created our own similar story about Major's stay here. He referred to it as 'our story.'"*

Major's progress was remarkable.

He was walking what are known as community distances by himself, navigating stairs, and readily using his right hand. After two weeks of inpatient care—and two weeks ahead of schedule—he was discharged, continuing his outpatient therapy from home.

"He loved every one of his caregivers at TIRR Memorial Hermann," said Kenisha. *"His strength is improved and he's back at school, playing with his siblings and making TikTok videos."*

COLLABORATIVE SLAM DUNK

Memorial Hermann and the Houston Rockets make this long-term partnership official in a big way.

Whether watching from box seats or our living rooms, Houstonians have seen firsthand what talented sports teams can accomplish. Now, there's a new team in town. After nearly two decades of collaboration on countless health and wellness initiatives, Memorial Hermann Health System and the Houston Rockets have officially signed a first-of-its-kind partnership.

In July 2022, Memorial Hermann's entire orthopedics and sports medicine service line was rebranded as Memorial

Hermann | Rockets Orthopedics. Memorial Hermann sports medicine institute clinics became Memorial Hermann | Rockets Sports Medicine Institute. And the Memorial Hermann Orthopedic & Spine Hospital became Memorial Hermann | Rockets Orthopedic Hospital. Ours is the first health system in the country to co-brand its orthopedic programs with a national sports team partner.

Power play for H-Town health

The history behind the partnership stretches back to 2005 when Memorial Hermann became the official health care provider of the Houston Rockets.



Houston Rockets General Manager Rafael Stone • Dr. Walt Lowe (Chairman and Professor of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston, Chief of Orthopedic Surgery, Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center) • Houston Rockets Head Coach Stephen Silas

Combining the power of both names is an exciting way to deliver exceptional orthopedic care and, ultimately, build a healthier Houston.

“Our roots go deep in the city we love. We’ve been caring for Houstonians for 115 years,” said David L. Callender, MD, president and CEO of Memorial Hermann Health System. *“The Rockets have been making this city proud for more than half a century. I’m excited to see what we will accomplish together.”*

A winning track record

Their collaboration has already made great strides. For 10-plus years, the Houston Rockets and Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital have presented the *“Be Fit Challenge,”* motivating and rewarding students for healthy nutrition and physical activities. At Toyota Center, Memorial Hermann funded the installation of private, tech-enabled breastfeeding stations and lactation spaces, along with additional baby-changing stations in all men's and women's restrooms throughout the arena.

Several times during the worst of the pandemic, the Rockets and Clutch surprised Memorial Hermann front-line teams with treats and some welcomed comic relief as a show of support.

Exercise is medicine.

Just this spring, the Houston Rockets and the City of Houston, in collaboration with Memorial Hermann Community Benefit Corporation, unveiled two newly refurbished basketball courts at the Moody Community Center in north Houston. Rockets players and coaches presented mini clinics for children, who also received backpacks filled with items from Children's Memorial Hermann and the Rockets.

With the new courts, kids and adults have a quality place to play basketball, take exercise classes, and enjoy other activities.

Moving forward, this partnership intends to continue the momentum of improving the health and quality of life of Houstonians. And if anyone knows the importance of momentum, it's the Houston Rockets.

“The world-class service Memorial Hermann has provided our players over the years is no different than the care, knowledge, and passion they bring to all patients,” said Rockets President of Business Operations Gretchen Sheirr. *“It's unmatched.”*

ELEVATED CONNECTIONS

Once again, Aspen provided the perfect backdrop for Memorial Hermann Foundation to celebrate the dedication of our board members and generous supporters and friends, old and new.



Edd Hendee, Lisa Simon, Steve Trauber, Anne Neeson, Jim Smith, Amy Pierce, Tony Bradfield

This is always a wonderful opportunity to learn from leadership and special guests about Memorial Hermann Health System's latest advances and visions for the future. This year's "Elevated Connections" retreat focused on Life Flight and its founder, the legendary Dr. Red Duke.

Memorial Hermann President and CEO, David Callender, MD, spoke briefly, introducing clinicians Michelle K. McNutt, MD,

and Tom Flanagan, who shared amusing personal stories about the famed trauma surgeon they worked alongside for many years.

Kudos and many thanks to Melissa Juneau, Leticia Trauber and Hallie Vanderhider for chairing this very special event, highlighted by the surprise announcement of The John M. O'Quinn Foundation's \$5 million gift toward replacing the Life Flight fleet. See the related story on the following spread.



Bess Wilson, Michelle McNutt, Lisa and Jerry Simon



Amalia Stanton, Laurie Krohn, Melissa Juneau, Laura Escalona



Anne Neeson, Rafael Stone, David Callender, Gretchen Sheir



Nina and Edd Hendee



Valerie Dieterich, Rachel Regan, Tracy Dieterich, Bethany Buchanan, Ishwaria Subbiah



Ishwaria and Vivek Subbiah

FRIENDRAISING



Felicia Stone, Melissa Juneau, Amy Pierce, Leigh Smith, Roslyn Bazzelle Mitchell



Will and Elizabeth Galtney



Michelle McNutt, Nick and Elizabeth Zdeblick, Tom Flanagan



Kathy and Charles Lusk



Tom Flanagan, Leticia Trauber, Mike Lowenberg, Bess and Rob Wilson, Anne Neeson and Steve Trauber



Mike and Patti Morgan



Michelle Koskie, Laurie Krohn, Melissa Juneau, Susan Plank



Ginger Clark and Janet Clark



Rosalyn, Derrick Jr., and Derrick Mitchell



Rob and Amy Pierce



Julie Longoria Chen, Valerie Dieterich, Lisa Moncrief, Audrey White, Melissa Segulas

PROFILES IN PHILANTHROPY



SUSTAINING LIFE FLIGHT

A \$5 million gift from The John M. O'Quinn Foundation sets the wheels in motion.

Since taking to the skies in 1976, Life Flight has flown well over 162,000 missions, helping to save tens of thousands of lives. Generous supporters have made its decades of achievements and innovations possible. Maintaining Life Flight's illustrious aircraft is a 24/7 operation, and the time has come to replace the fleet, at an estimated cost of \$42 million.

The first to step up to support this effort was The John M. O'Quinn Foundation, making a \$5 million commitment before an official capital campaign had even been launched.

"We are so thankful for this extremely generous donation," said Anne Neeson, executive vice president and CEO of the Memorial Hermann Foundation. "We are grateful for the partnership of The John M. O'Quinn Foundation and its

recognition of the importance of this service to our community."

"We know the city of Houston has come to rely on Life Flight, so we are honored to do our part in helping support those efforts," said Robert C. Wilson III, president of The John M. O'Quinn Foundation. "We appreciate Memorial Hermann's commitment to helping save lives through this service, and we want to help ensure that commitment can continue for many decades to come."

The John M. O'Quinn Foundation is a longtime partner of Memorial Hermann. This generous gift will go toward providing five new helicopters, expanding Life Flight's service range and optimizing flight safety and onboard patient care. In recognition, the first new helicopter will be named in honor of The John M. O'Quinn Foundation.

MOVING MOUNTAINS, THEN CLIMBING THEM



A partner in one of the world's largest consulting firms, Rick Kelley was a man on the move. At 53, he averaged 100,000 commercial air miles every year, eating healthy and exercising religiously to maintain the impressive pace. Ironically, he was on an elliptical trainer in his home in Glen Ellen, Virginia, when he collapsed on January 22, 2013.

"It took them weeks to convince me I'd had a stroke," said Kelley. *"I had no risk factors. On the way to the hospital, I even bet the ambulance driver a case of beer that I was not having a stroke. I lost."*

Kelley's stroke was the result of a spontaneous dissection—a random tear in his right carotid artery, which released a blood clot. When he left the hospital, the tear had healed, but he was in a wheelchair and could no longer use his left arm.

"I lost my career, my independence, and every hobby I had," said Kelley. *"For two years, I couldn't drive. To call it a shock is an understatement."*

Even so, he counted his blessings. Thanks to a generous disability package, money wasn't an issue, so Kelley did what he'd always done. He got busy. He conducted his own stroke research, reading every white paper he could get his hands on, even writing one. He also applied and was accepted for a promising clinical trial through TIRR Memorial Hermann.

A company called MicroTransponder had developed a technology in which a device is surgically attached to the vagus nerve. For 30 minutes at 10-second intervals, it emits an electric charge that stimulates the brain,

releasing chemicals to enhance neuroplasticity, which facilitates stroke recovery.

With his implant, Kelley saw significant improvement. Memorial Hermann's medical team also helped develop a cost-effective version of the technology for home use. Still using the device weekly, Kelley continues to improve and prosper, even giving back to help other stroke victims.

In 2021, he founded PRK Holdings, an investment company with assets in a range of industries. Drawing no personal income, he donates 10 percent of all earnings to stroke-related charities and research such as TIRR Memorial Hermann.

"The doctors at Memorial Hermann don't just want to cure somebody or fix something. They want people to get their quality of life back so it's a life worth living."

Rick Kelley

While he still can't use his left hand, the man on the move hasn't slowed down. Not only is he walking, but he also finished a 5k marathon and hiked Machu Picchu.

"I'm not saying it's easy," said Kelley. *"But if God came to me today and offered to go back in time and eliminate the stroke and its complications, I'd decline. What I've gained far surpasses what I've lost."*

MEMORIAL HERMANN Foundation

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Memorial Hermann Foundation

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MEMORIAL HERMANN RAZZLE DAZZLE REUNITED

OCTOBER 13, 2022 | 11AM
at THE POST OAK HOTEL

GUEST SPEAKER

Gladys Knight

Chairs

CAROLINE & WILL BROWN
LISA & JERRY SIMON

Honorary Chair

YVONNE CORMIER, MD

Honoree

NINA HENDEE

Benefitting early detection and outreach programs at Memorial Hermann, including the Bobetta C. Lindig Breast Care Center at Memorial Hermann Memorial City Medical Center

Tables for \$100,000, \$50,000, \$25,000, \$15,000,
\$10,000, \$5,000, \$3,000—*limited availability*

More information, call 713.242.4450
or email Cathleen.fishel@memorialhermann.org

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MEMORIAL HERMANN

IN THE
Pink
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SAVE THE DATE
22ND ANNUAL
LUNCHEON

Friday, October 14, 2022

The Woodlands Waterway
Marriott Hotel & Convention Center

For more details and sponsorship opportunities,
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