



VIGOR

A Newsletter for Texas Instruments' Houston Alumni

Final Edition VIGOR

We are publishing this Final Edition of the VIGOR to inform you that the Texas Instruments Houston Alumni Association (TIHAA) has been dissolved as a club.

The board held meetings in June and July of 2022 and determined that it was no longer practical for the club to function as in the past. They then went about the task of calling all the current membership to see if they were interested in becoming an informal social gathering. A significant number of members were in agreement, and it was decided to meet for lunch each month on the third Tuesday at 11:30 am at the Luby's Cafeteria, 10575 West Airport Road at Murphy Road near the old TI-Stafford site. The first social gathering was held on July 19th with a nice attendance.

The next TI Alumni Lunch Gathering will be Tuesday, August 16th at the same location and time.

The TIHAA board voted to contribute the club treasury funds of \$4,455.34 to local charities. The decision was made to donate \$2,227.67 each to The Fort Bend Senior Meals on Wheels, and The Houston Food Bank. A copy of the checks is shown on page 7.

The TI Houston Alumni Association website will remain active into the future and will occasionally contain information from the luncheon social gatherings. You can see most of the club historical content on it. The address is: www.tihaa.org.



Following are the updates from board meetings held in the past two years:

Results of TIHAA Zoom Board Meeting on July 25, 2020:

The TIHAA Board decided to set up a virtual meeting to discuss and take action on several items that needed to be addressed. The board met on Saturday, July 25, using Zoom.

The decision was made at that meeting to publish the August 2020 Special Edition of the VIGOR newsletter. Those in attendance at the Zoom virtual meeting were: **Jean Houston, Mary Brown, Lola McMann, Daryl Moss, Ralph Garcia, Gary Lockett and Lawson Cook.**

Board members agreed that the conditions that warranted the suspension of all club activities earlier this year still exist at this time. The general feeling of the board was that until a vaccine is available for the members, no in-person activities will be scheduled. That means that the Bingo, BBQ and Christmas Party events, as well as Day Trips will not be held in 2020.

The board voted to transfer all 2020 memberships to 2021, with no additional action required by the members. That will make 2020 a FREE year for everyone that was a member in 2019. Members that have paid for 2 or 3 years, will have those memberships extended by 1 year. Anyone that has not paid their 2020 dues will be continued as a member until January, 2021, at which time they will need to pay to continue membership in 2021.

Officers for 2020 have agreed to serve for 2021, and there will be no election this year.

The board discussed the possibility of virtual club events, such as Zoom Bingo, if there was enough interest. If you have suggestions on some activities that the club can do virtually during 2020, please call our club phone: 832-551-8025 or email at: tihaaemail@gmail.com.

Update as of June 2022.

The members of the TIHAA board that still have an interest in club activities met at the TI Sugar Land building at 2pm on June 14 to discuss the future of the club. Action items were generated and a follow-up meeting was scheduled for July 12 at 2pm at TI. After the July meeting, we anticipate that we will have a plan of action for the future of the club. The plan will be presented to the current membership after that date. We will also post here on the website.

Update as of July 2022.

The members of the TIHAA board (Jean Houston, Della DuHart, Lola McMann, Mary Brown, Daryl Moss, Corall Harrington, Ralph & Estella Garcia, Gary Lockett and Lawson Cook) met at Texas Instruments in Sugar Land on July 12 at 2PM to make decisions about the club. The decision was made to begin the transition from a club to a social gathering. The first such social gathering is scheduled for Tuesday, July 19 at the Luby's Cafeteria, located at the corner of Airport and Murphy Road at 11:30 AM. It is the plan to continue meeting on the third Tuesday of each month. An email is being sent to the membership of record to inform of this new social gathering. This is no longer a club activity, so anyone is welcome to join the group that assembles in a side section of the cafeteria. Look for someone you know.

Club membership has been dissolved and the club funds are being donated to local charities. Details will be posted on the website.

We have removed the TIHAA phone number from our club listing, so it is no longer in service. The club email address is still active.

A Tribute to Don & Lynn Stefan

Don Stefan (July 18, 1923 - July 4, 2019) Lynn Stefan (November 9, 1923 - July 6, 2021)



Our dear friend **Lynn Stefan** moved to her new heavenly residence on July 6, 2021, at the age of 97.

She joined her beloved husband, **Don Stefan** at their new home, in which he had been awaiting her arrival since July 4, 2019.

Lynn and Don, for years, were the glue that held the TI Retiree Club (the original TI retiree club) together. Lynn was active from the very beginning of the club and was always an enthusiastic supporter of all club activities.

At the annual Bingo events, we had white elephant prizes that each attendee would bring. Lynn always brought a carload that filled half of the table. She just loved to see the folks smiling faces as they opened their prizes.

Don was always ready to call the Bingo numbers. He always had a good clean joke to make everyone laugh.

When they moved away from the southwest Houston area to the Woodlands, they left a big hole in the club to be filled. They still managed to come to events, such as the BBQ, even into their 90's.

A good friend, Vivian Watkins, who also lived on the north side of town (but not very close to them) went out of her way to bring them to some of the club events, after they were too old to drive.

Lynn really guarded her age. I remember that the subject of birthday dates came up and she wouldn't tell me the year - only the day.



It's really impossibly hard to sum up what Don & Lynn meant to the club in a few words. But, if you look back at the history of the club on the website, you see

Stefan fingerprints on so many items. They carried the Vigor on their backs for so many years. May they enjoy their new home in

the presence of the Lord.

Don's obituary from the August/September 2019 Vigor is later this issue.



- Lawson Cook

Remembrances by Chris Stefan, Lynn's daughter-in-law.

Mom was three-and-a-half months away from celebrating her 98th birthday. She passed on July 7th, 2021, as her body just gave out. She wasn't sick, she was just old. She still loved jokester, loved my cooking, and loved her grandson Scott's dog named Riley. She always wanted Riley in the bed with her. Once Riley couldn't be in bed with her anymore because Lynn was so fragile, Riley laid right beside her bed, or underneath, always on guard to protect her. They were dear friends. She and Dad were married 72 years when Dad passed. He was two weeks shy of being 97. He passed on July 4, 2019, which we thought was very fitting due to the fact he loved history so much and loved our great country. They are together now in Heaven, having a wonderful time together. And I'm sure if they were here what they would say to the TI Group is: "Make sure before you leave this world that you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior!!!"

Chris thanked Vivian Watkins for being such a dear friend to both of them when they moved to the Woodlands. During that time, Vivian would bring them to club events and take them to doctor visits if necessary. Don & Lynn loved and enjoyed being with Vivian.

Remembrances by Vivian Watkins:

I did not really get to know Don and Lynn until they moved to their apartment with a Conroe address. It was just off FM1488 near I45.

When I moved to my current home, near FM1488 in Waller County, Lynn and Don thought I lived just a few miles from them. (I was 26 miles away from them!). Lynn called me one day to ask if I could come take them to her hearing aid specialist over on I10 because they could not drive that far. I said yes and took them to their appointment. They were both in their early nineties.

Don and Lynn were so much fun to be around. They did not complain about anything and always found something good to say. They even had me drive their Kia Sportage sometimes because it just sat in their garage. That was a fun little car. After that first experience of taking them to the appointment, this became a normal thing for us. Over the years, we went to appointments, to TI Barbecues and even once to the Retirement Club Bingo. At one of the doctor appointments I heard them call for Helen and Lynn responded. Her name was really Helen but she never liked that name, so she used the Len part of HeLEN and spelled it Lynn.

I never went into their apartment when we returned until one day Lynn had realized it was my birthday. She, like always, asked me to come in and told me she had purchased a cake to celebrate. Of course, I went in. Lynn and Don surprised me with several individually wrapped presents. What a happy surprise for me when I began to open the presents to find Lynn was gifting me with some of her own jewelry! (I still wear the items today.)

The time finally came when Don and Lynn needed to move to Dickinson to be closer to their younger son. I took them to Dickinson to view an apartment their son had selected near his home. I was happy for them but knew our adventures had come to an end. They had been moved just over a year when Don died at age 95 leaving Lynn to live alone. It wasn't long before Lynn had to be moved to live in their son's home. After a while, the son and his wife needed a short vacation so I was asked to stay a few days with Lynn. We had a good visit those days but she was not able to get around so we could only visit in her room. At 96 years old, Lynn was still very sweet but obviously missed Don so much. They had celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary just before he died.

Just over a year after our visit, I found out that Lynn had fallen and had broken her hip. She never fully recovered and died at age 97 1/2 - two years and two days after Don.

I cherish the time I got to be with this lovely couple. They loved life and loved sharing life with their friends.

I asked Vivian if she had a funny memory of her time with the Stefans and she responded:

Lawson, the only funny memory I have, you probably cannot print.

Don and Lynn once took me out to a nice restaurant in The Woodlands. Lynn dressed up in a low cut blouse. Mind you, this is a couple in their nineties. Don leaned over, looked down Lynn's blouse and said Oh my goodness! That is sexy! Let's go home NOW!

Remembrances by Daryl Moss:

Lynn and Don were some of the original founders of the TI Retiree Club (TIRET) back in 1989. Consequently, they seemed to know everybody in the club, directly or indirectly, and reached out to all members who attended events. Lynn had the background and smarts to do almost anything required, and Don was her constant support aide. As age progressed, she faithfully fulfilled the duties of Sunshine chair – sympathy cards, etc. Eventually, they moved to Conroe to a seniors only apartment, and later Dickinson to be near family. Her many friends kept her updated on club activities, especially the TI sponsored B-B-Q which she and Don last attended in 2017, at the Stafford Centre. They were both in good spirits among TI retiree friends. Don passed away in 2019 and Lynn in 2021.

Lynn (and Don) were the heart and soul of our *Vigor* bimonthly newsletter up to about 2010. No small task. In the early years of the Retiree Club, the vigor was done on a manual typewriter, page-by-page initially, where whiteout fluid blotted over errors. Don did the typing from text Lynn had written out longhand. Lynn would also cut out, insert and glue down the appropriate scattered 'images' from printed magazines, newspapers, catalogs. During each monthly luncheon, Lynn would circulate with clipboard in hand gathering personal news for the next vigor. Our annual events (Bingo, B-B-Q, Christmas Party) provided 3 x 5 snapshots--trimmed and glued down--for the larger Vigor editions. In its finished form, Lynn or Don took the paper-clipped master vigor to TI in Stafford [Hou-Texans internal support] where it was replicated in black and white per our roster headcount. After a call from TI and retrieving the stacked copies, a small devoted group would meet at Lynn's home, sort-staple-fold the vigors, add mailing labels and stamps, then mail at the nearest post office. Lynn and Don's efforts were above and beyond with respect to meeting the vigor's bimonthly schedule.

(Through the years, the vigor reflects a condensed, written history of the club.)

At one of the TIRET board meetings in 2005, Lynn brought up the idea of renewing a Bingo event, lapsed for a few years. She said Bingo prizes--unwanted 'treasures' would do--and that hot (or cold) food/drink would entice members and guests to come. Hence, in 2007 Pot Luck and Bingo (as a Spring Event) was brought back as a great success. Don called numbers at the Bingo wheel for many years. The donated, giveaway, winning prizes were colorfully wrapped or bagged, and occupied a packed, folding table surface or more. Thanks to Lynn and Don, again, for initial direction towards a long lasting fun event.

Donald Edwin Stefan 1923 - 2019

Donald E. Stefan stepped into Heaven on July 4th, 2019 after a battle with dementia. He was born to Edwin and Hilda Stefan at St. James Hospital Chicago Heights, Illinois on July 18th, 1923 at 8:25 am. Poppa Don, as he was called, had a brother Eddie and a sister Lois, both of which preceded him in death. He lived a very full life of almost 95 years. He is survived by his wife, Lynn, son Donald A. Stefan and his wife Linda, and their son Tim Stefan, and son Larry Stefan and his wife Chris, and their children Scott Stefan, Allie Gilligan and Emma Stefan.

Donald served in the U.S. Army from February 15th, 1943 till February 19th, 1946, earning two Overseas Service Bars, an American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, the Good Conduct Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

After leaving the military, he married his sweetheart Helen ("Lynn") the following year on June 29, 1947. They just celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary. Their marriage and their love for each other was an inspiration to many people.

Poppa Don, as he was called by his family, was a graduate of Purdue University with an engineering degree. He had a fulfilling work history that included Texas Instruments and General Electric as a contractor to NASA. He was involved in the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo Space Programs - notably ALSEP (the instrumentation packages left on the moon).

If you spent any time at all with Donald, you know how much he loved Jesus. Many days he would walk around singing "Oh How I Love Jesus". He specialized in making people laugh and was very good at it. He loved to dance with Lynn and also loved to fish. One of his favorite sayings was: "Keep smiling, everything is going to be alright."

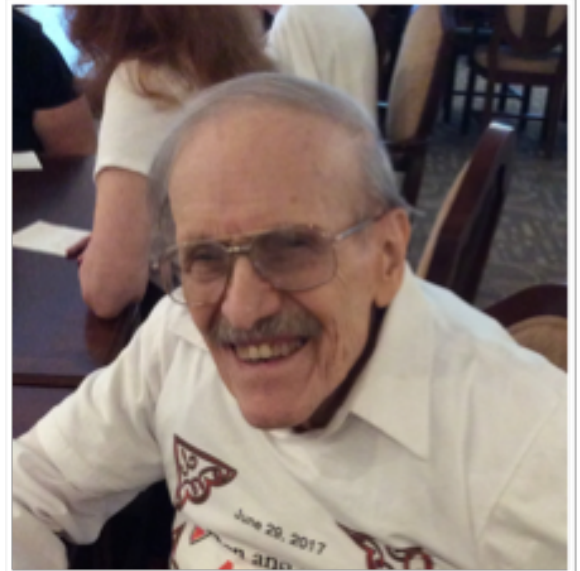
Memorial services were held at 11:00 AM at Praise Chapel, in Webster, and were conducted by Pastor Roy Love. Military honors were presented during the service.

As a team, Don and Lynn created and published the TI Retiree Club's bimonthly newsletter, Vigor, for a decade or more. They were active participants in all activities to promote the club, especially in it's formative years.

At the annual Retiree Club Bingo Party, Don was a bombastic bingo caller for many years. He was always the

life of the party, at club events and day trips.

For the last few years, Don & Lynn moved out of the southwest Houston area to be nearer their families, so were not able to attend most club activities, but they were always eager to help the club in any way they could.



From the August/September 2018 Vigor:

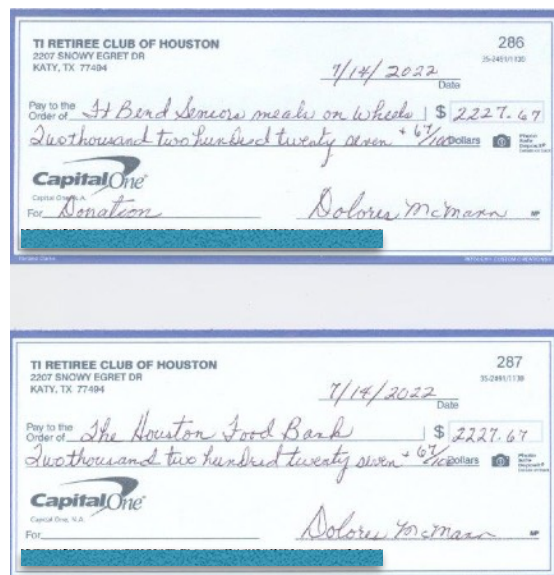


Vivian Watkins related to us that on June 29, 2018, **Lynn and Don Stefan** celebrated their **71st wedding anniversary** with friends at their apartment's dining room. They had a delicious three layer fruit-filled Neapolitan cake. The apartment's Friday night DJ provided music for the guests which made the Stefan's evening even more enjoyable.

AND.... **Don Stefan**, on July 18, 2018, celebrated his 95th birthday. ***Happy Birthday to you, Don, from all your friends!***

Don and Lynn have been supporters of the club ever since it came into existence. They served as Co-Editors of the Vigor until they retired from that position and moved to the Woodlands to be closer to family. Before they moved, they attended almost all day trips, events and luncheons. Up until the last few years, Don was our Bingo caller. Lynn continues to serve as the TIHAA's Sunshine Chairperson for at least 8 years running. Lynn and Don plan to be moving to Dickinson in August or September.

Copies of the checks that were written to distribute funds to local charities.



It seemed fitting that the Final Vigor include a copy of the original Vigor from January, 1995 on the next page.



January 1995

vigor

A Monthly Newsletter for Texas Instruments' Retirees

OFFICERS FOR 1995

President:	Levi Norman	495-5488
Vice President:	Oma Niles	723-2743
Vice President:	Bob Spears	373-0968
Treasurer:	Charles Sumrall	495-2785
Secretary:	Nita Davis	667-2050
Secretary:	Ana Marie Hutt	495-1418
Activities:	Lynn Stefan	777-2805
Activities:	Wilma Roth	667-3104
Sunshine Chair:	Ardeth Ewing	342-8048



PEOPLE

• **Frances Blankenship Lowery**, 80, passed away October 6, 1994. She worked for Texas Instruments for 20 years and was active in the Food Drive and other activities.

• **Burt Bassham**, Retiree Club president for four years, was married on November 22, 1994. He and his wife, **Joyce**, are living part-time in both the Woodlands and in **Alvington**, W.Va. Burt went to work for TI in 1956 in Planning and Receiving and later became the credit union manager.

• The Vigor newsletter welcomes your contributions. If you have any information that would be of interest to Texas Instruments' retirees, please contact **Lynn Stefan**, activities chairwoman, at 713-777-2805.

SPECIAL EVENTS

On December 6, 1994, the Retiree Club took a trip to the IMAX Wortham Center and the Cockrell Butterfly Center. The club members stopped at Champs for a buffet breakfast before going to the theatre.



This year, the club has an arrangement with Bayland Park for FREE bus service for its trips. If you have any ideas for future trips or activities, please call Lynn Stefan at 777-2805.

COMING IN FEBRUARY: For our February meeting, which falls on Valentine's Day, Macie Colley will be speaking. She writes for the Houston Post's Saturday edition, and has been compared to Erma Bombeck for her humorous outlook on life. Ladies will receive roses. A door prize will be awarded after each meeting.

January 1995

Volume 1, Issue 1

A TI Internal Communications Publication
Jeff Schmidt, Editor