



# VIGOR

**A Newsletter for Texas Instruments' Houston Alumni**

## ***Special Edition VIGOR***

***We are publishing this Special Edition of the VIGOR to bring you up to date on the TIHAA at this time, and to include a special section as a tribute to member Bob Gruber, who passed away on June 30.***

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### **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 this 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 Luckett 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](mailto:tihaaemail@gmail.com).



**Treasurer's Report - July 25, 2020**TIHAA Bank Balance: **\$4,455.34**TIHAA Income YTD: **\$540.00**YTD Expenses: **\$430.04****Current Membership: 153**

Membership.

Vigor newsletter &amp; Lunch speaker

If you have any updates to your email, phone number or address, please let Lola know so that she can update the roster.

Submitted: Lola McMann, Treasurer

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***It is with heavy hearts, we must tell you that Billy Gann, husband of Norma Gann, went to live with the Lord Friday, January 31, 2020, with a heart attack in his sleep. Our sincere condolences go to Norma and family.***

***A memorial service was held for Billy at the Simonton Community Church Chapel in Simonton, TX, on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 6:30PM.***

Gary Luckett has provided the following weblink to a drone video on Facebook that shows a short flight over a portion of The Grid. The Grid is a mixed-use commercial development that is in-process on the old Texas Instruments Stafford site.

<https://www.facebook.com/ExperiencetheGrid/videos/839955899751196/>

**The following club members have birthdays in the last half of 2020.**

(August)	Annie Johnson, Betty Parker, Allen Brown, Corall Harrington
(September)	Estella Garcia, George Wolf, Howard Cameron, Gladys Price, Jeanette Johnson, Mary Gomez
(October)	Daryl Moss, Israel Morales Tony Amante, Vivian Watkins, Sarah Harvey, Lola McMann, Irma Arriaga
(November)	Helen Colwell, Delma Hogan-Cotton, Lynn Stefan, Marty Wright
(December)	Lydia Barker, Luanne Luckett, Bill Young

## Robert Allen Gruber

October 30, 1931 - June 30, 2020

Robert Allen Gruber, born October 30, 1931, was called home to be with the Lord on June 30, 2020.

Bob and wife Marian were married for 65 years. They have four children: Mary Byrd (husband Don), Tom (wife Rhia), John (wife Betty), and David as well as several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Bob was born and grew up in Milwaukee, WI. He graduated with an engineering degree from Marquette University on a Navy scholarship. He then served in the Navy for several years. Bob and Marian returned to Milwaukee to begin their family in 1957. The family also lived in La Mirada, CA and Richardson, TX before coming to Houston in 1972. They joined St. Thomas More Catholic Church and sang in the church choirs up until a few years ago. Over the years Bob was a lector at Mass and a member of the Knights of Columbus as well.

Bob had a long career at Texas Instruments, beginning in California. In the 1960s and 70s, he was involved with the sales and marketing of high-tech integrated circuits for the first consumer applications including home calculators, video games, and interactive toys. After 36 years with the company, he retired from TI as Project Manager of the Asia Pacific Division.

After leaving TI, Bob became very active in retirement groups—TI Houston Alumni Association and the St. Thomas More Streamliners—offering his organizational skills to promote the groups' activities. He and Marian enjoyed traveling and were able to see the world, often with groups of friends. He especially liked the cruise ships!

Fishing was a favorite hobby and Bob passed his love of fishing on to his sons. At home, he most enjoyed building things in his garage workshop or tending to the vegetable garden out back.

A Funeral Mass is scheduled for July 24 at 10:30 am at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 10220 Hillcroft St. An inurnment will follow in a private ceremony at the Houston National Cemetery.



**The following sections are some remembrances of Bob by a few of the board members that worked with him through the years.**

According to the February, 1997, VIGOR, Bob Gruber attended his first TI Retiree Club breakfast meeting at Shoney's Buffet Breakfast on February 19, 1997. In 2003, Bob was elected Vice President of the club. By 2004, Bob was organizing Day Trips as well as performing his duties as VP. In late 2003, Bob called Lawson Cook, and using his marketing skills and a good dose of arm-twisting, he talked Lawson into running for Treasurer. Bob never missed an opportunity to promote the club throughout the years. He was a constant at board meetings and club events and directed or helped direct those activities.

Our condolences go to Marian and the Gruber family.

—Lawson Cook

From the first time I met Bob in 2010, he was always willing to assist in any activity for the club.

He (and Marian) were often the first members to sign up for the Spring Fling (Bingo), Day Trips, and the TI BBQ. He often said to me, “Bigger and Better” should be our goal. Lead by example to get more participation from the membership.

Coming from a leadership position in Texas Instruments, Bob was never reluctant to voice his opinion on how activities in the club should be run.

In later years, as he stepped down from active participation in club events, Bob sometimes ruffled a few feathers when he made comments that upset the chairman of events and others. As president, I, at times, had to referee the disagreements and remind them that we were working for a better TIHAA, and sometimes we may not be doing things the way we, as individuals, think might be best.

Without Bob’s commitment, the TIHAA would not be the club it is today.

Rest in peace, Bob.

—Gary Luckett

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Our club was known as the TIRET (short for TI Retiree Club) until 2012, when it was renamed as the TIHAA (TI Houston Alumni Association), better to emulate the Dallas’ organization rules and bylaws.

### **The Club Bylaws:**

Bob was faithful toward keeping the TIRET bylaws updated biannually, as necessary with any dynamic club. With anyone from the TIRET board who wanted to help or proofread, he would rewrite and revise numerous sections to better reflect the true board structure and overall operations. There were two major updates he worked on diligently. After board review, he would take a single copy to TI and have someone run about 100 copies. He would take a large box to the Golden Corral (or America Buffet) luncheon and distribute to the attendees, explaining and simplifying the updates.

### **DAY TRIP ORGANIZER EXTRAORDINAIRE:**

When I joined the club during Israel Morales’ time as club president (2004-2006), Bob was personally organizing day trips. His efficiency and effort was beyond extraordinary. He tried to fill the bus every time, making personal calls to encourage new club members (such as myself) to go. Using his sales and marketing skills, he was pretty convincing that it was a good deal. So we went on our first trip -- definitely worth it. Some months later at a luncheon, he approached me about assuming the day trip tasks. Not yet feeling confident about what appeared to be a daunting task, I said I’d work with Israel to arrange some day trips, and we did. Bob helped both of us through the early day trips, taught us the ropes so to speak. Bob was an excellent mentor in the day trip area. Bob seemed relieved to relinquish the day trips duties after 2-3 years. I quickly discovered it was no small task to arrange and execute a day trip every month. Bob and Marian went on a lot of day trips.

### **TI-BBQ:**

If Bob had a favorite passion in support of the club, it was the TI-BBQ. The TI-BBQ had been ongoing since the club founding, totally free courtesy of TI with various supporting tasks done by TIRET officers and other committee heads and regular members. But Bob multi-tasked through many BBQ’s at the TI-Stafford cafeteria (and later at the Stafford Centre) where attendance approached 200, or slightly over. Bob coordinated with TI-HTA (Hou-Texans Association) and HR (Human Resources) to obtain and update the TI retiree roster, over 1000 names in the early 2000’s. No small undertaking to update such a large roster about 1 ½ month before the BBQ. Bob was consistently at TI attempting the expedite changes and

obtain a mailing list of labels (the label sheets). Bob wrote most of the features on the invitation cover letters to be placed inside the envelopes, as well as design a join-TIRET flier. TI made copies of these documents, all of which he brought to his home for “assembly”.

In those days he and Marian hosted, at his home, the dozen TIRET members willing to help ‘stuff’, label and stamp the invite letters — about a 2-hour assembly line task. I remember a lot of good-time socializing, where Bob was the station-to-station mover. Usually the next day he mailed the massive amount of envelopes, too. A call-back RSVP telephone number was provided to closely determine the approximate headcount of those that planned to attend and Bob would update us regularly.

At one of the TI-BBQ’s, Bob wrote and presented an exquisite sales pitch about TIRET to the retirees and spouses. He covered all the club benefits with examples, including the luncheon speakers, the day trips, the bimonthly *Vigor* newsletter, and the two other annual events: Bingo games with food and super prizes in the spring, and a semi-formal Christmas Party in December. The goal was to convince retirees in attendance to join TIRET...and, thanks to Bob, that year quite a few did join.

Bob arranged entertainment for the TI-BBQ’s for many years. Generally a local band/ensemble or singing group. Very enjoyable. Also, in conjunction with TI, he solicited a TI manager to address the attendees about business/development projects within TI, to explain its market direction and financial outlook. All these took a good bit of time and effort, appreciated by all of us that served with him on the TIRET board of directors. He was a first class mentor.

—Daryl Moss

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Nora and I met Bob and Marian Gruber at the TI Retiree meetings at Golden Corral in 2003. Bob was the club Vice President and also the Day Trips Chairman that year.

One could say that he was indeed the club's spark plug. His never ending enthusiasm to better the club was very evident in his ideas for a better club.

He was a very efficient negotiator and a master at that. He never turned down a meeting and made his home available for what we TI Retirees called 'stuffing parties'.

In 2004, Bob asked me to run for President. His enthusiasm rubbed off on me and I accepted. I was elected President and with a great team of committee chairpersons and under Bob's wings, the club had the best meeting attendance ever. His negotiations with Texas Instruments Human Resources afforded the club the best TI Retiree BBQ's ever. The Christmas Parties reached almost 100 in attendance.

Bob had many other activities besides TI Retiree Club. As a member of St. Thomas More Catholic Church, he found other things to do. He was a choir member and a member of a very large senior club known as The Streamliners. Only Miriam can tell you what other endeavors he had.

Bob invited Nora and me to join The Streamliners club and we were richly rewarded with the activities that they had. We took numerous cruises and trips in the U.S. and Caribbean. Some of these cruises took us as far away to Rome on a Mediterranean Cruise.

We spent many happy and enjoyable times with Bob and Mirian as we always sought each other's company on these trips.

Thank you Bob for the memories. Rest in Peace.

—Israel Morales



