



## Calvin Richard Bentsen

May 17, 2024

Calvin Richard Bentsen, prominent local civic leader and businessman completed his last safari of life at the age of 98. His legacy of enthusiasm, vitality, and humor enlightened generations of family, friends, and acquaintances from all walks of life.

Born in the quiet Rio Grande Valley during the depression, Calvin was the second child of Marie J. and Elmer C. Bentsen, the elder being Ted and the younger, Rose Marie. He graduated from McAllen High School and proceeded to the University of Texas where he was a member of Sigma NU fraternity. Being of strong Danish descent, patriotism for the United States was an essential value in family life, so he volunteered for the US Air Force during World War II.

At the suggestion of his father, he met Marge Harris, a Hockaday friend of Rose Marie's, and they married in Center, TX in 1949. The couple returned to McAllen, where he opened Tex-Air conditioning Company.

As a businessman, he became involved in real estate, banking, oil and gas, and ranching, and his dedication to civic causes generated his participation through countless ways. Calvin was a lifelong member of the First United Methodist Church and served on the board of the Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville for many years. In 1987, he was honored by the San Antonio Museum Assn. for generous service, extraordinary dedication, and outstanding contributions to the communities of the people of Texas.

As occupied as he was with business and three young daughters at home, his

concern for health and education led him to be a member and president of the McAllen Independent School board and the McAllen General Hospital board, to name a few.

Growing up in the valley, Calvin developed a love and passion for the outdoors, especially the natural habitat. An appreciation of flora and fauna was instilled in him at a young age, and this legacy of massive oak trees can be observed today at Chula Vista and South Cynthia. Father-son dove hunts with his father and brother Ted were a favorite pastime, which he continued with his daughters and grandchildren. The correlation between conservation and hunting and how to balance the two in the interest of preservation was important to him.

His love of Africa began in 1960, and later included his wife, daughters, and grandchildren on many visits, exposing them to the vast world he felt so privileged to behold. These experiences resulted in his membership to Club Limited, Shikar Safari Club International, Game Coin and the NRA in which he was quite active.

Even though Calvin's departure leaves a void in our hearts, we have been blessed with his many years of love and dedication and will forever treasure the memories we share.

Calvin was preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Ted A. Bentsen, and his sister Rose Marie Benton. He is survived by his wife Marge, celebrating 75 years of marriage, and his three daughters, Pam Havens (Timothy M.), Margo Falb, and Susan Corrigan (Leo F. III). His beloved grandchildren, include Brooke Biddle, Susan Biddle, Bentsen Falb, MiMi Falb, Leo Corrigan IV (Sarah Claire), and DeWitt Corrigan, Sr. (Alison), as well as 6 great grandchildren.

The family would like to express their deep appreciation to the most recent caregivers: Luis Garcia, Tristan Lopez, Juan Escobedo, Joey Garcia, Luis Garza, and Manny Garza. A very special thanks also to Patty Torres and Lupita Cabral for their loving care through Amara Hospice.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, May 24, 2024, at the

First United Methodist Church in McAllen.

In lieu of flowers a contribution to Calvin Bentsen's memory may be made to the charity of your choice.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAY **24**. 2:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church of McAllen  
4200 N. McColl Rd.  
McAllen, TX

# Tribute Wall

DK

“ My name is David Klose. My dad Melvin Klose did quite a bit of business with Lloyd Bentsen sr and I met and shook his hand. Also knew Lloyd Bentsen jr and family thru church. All great people. Now I know DeWitt Bentsen Corrigan as my neighbor at Cherry Spring Tx. What a privilege to know yall. My condolences to all. David and Corine klose

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**david klose** - August 06, 2025 at 06:32 PM

KB

“ My friend Calvin Bentsen, I will miss you so ! I have known you for so many years and had so many adventures with you. Our hunting and social events were great memories from those days that were. I so thank you Sir for allowing me to experience those days together and evening social hours in so many venues. Those venues would vary from an open log fire at a hunting camp to the gracious headquarters of the La Coma Ranch, sometimes in your back yard. Always enjoyed your company and your lovely wife "Marge". May your family's faith help them with your departing from this life.

*Capt. Ken L. Baker*

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**Ken L. Baker** - May 29, 2024 at 12:52 PM

RG

“ As fine a gentleman as I ever met, I will remember fondly the conversations we shared on various occasions at his glorious Ranch north of Edinburg and at various occasions socially. His presence in our community was a blessing to all. Godspeed sir and thank you.

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**Richard Garcia** - May 22, 2024 at 09:24 AM

JF

“ So sorry to hear the passing of Calvin I will never forget the day he told me how him and Marge met one day talking to him at Jones and Jones God bless the family my prayers and condolences with all

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**Jo Fisher** - May 22, 2024 at 02:43 AM

PP

“ Patricia L Power lit a candle in memory of Calvin Bentsen



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**Patricia L Power** - May 21, 2024 at 06:45 PM