



On the Passing of Former Governor William P. Clements, Jr.

May 31, 2011

To the UT Southwestern Community:

On Sunday, May 29, UT Southwestern lost a great friend and visionary supporter with the passing of former Texas Governor William P. Clements, Jr. I personally feel very privileged to have known him. Governor Clements' unprecedented \$100 million gift to UT Southwestern in 2009 was given with the sole proviso that it be used to make a transformative impact on this institution. This allowed us to create the William P. Clements, Jr. Fund with our pledge to apply it in ways that truly will change the ways in which we advance biomedical science and improve health care to the benefit of this community, state, and nation.

This remarkable gift followed earlier philanthropic support to UT Southwestern that enabled the construction of the medical research and clinical facility now named the Bill and Rita Clements Advanced Medical Imaging Building and the creation of the Rita C. and William P. Clements, Jr. Scholar in Medical Research to recognize newly appointed and promising faculty members.

You will undoubtedly read or hear many accolades from across the state and nation in the wake of Governor Clements' passing. He was a pioneering entrepreneur, visionary governor, and valiant leader. But, we knew him here best as a philanthropist of uncommon generosity and foresight—and UT Southwestern will build on that legacy for many decades to come.

To honor Governor Clements, flags on campus will be lowered to half-staff throughout the week in accordance with the directive of Governor Perry and in deep appreciation and remembrance for a valued friend of our institution. I am sure that everyone on this campus will join me in extending condolences and best wishes to his wife and former UT Regent, Rita Clements, his daughter, Mrs. Nancy Seay, and his entire family.

Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.
President, UT Southwestern Medical Center