

UT Southwestern Medical Center

Mrs. Margaret McDermott, UT Southwestern beloved friend and benefactor, dies

May 3, 2018

With deepest sorrow, I write to inform you that we have learned of the passing of Mrs. Margaret Milam McDermott, a beloved friend, generous philanthropist, and dedicated community supporter. Mrs. McDermott passed away on May 3 at the age of 106.

A visionary benefactor, Mrs. McDermott immeasurably advanced the cultural and social fabric of her native Dallas through her creative vision and impeccable taste. She leaves an indelible imprint locally, regionally, and nationally upon generations who continue to benefit from her generous philanthropic support. Her philanthropic leadership and unwavering commitment significantly supported UT Southwestern Medical Center's advancement from humble beginnings 75 years ago to its current pre-eminence in research, medical education, and patient care.

The McDermott family name is synonymous with philanthropy. For more than five decades, Margaret and Eugene McDermott, the Eugene McDermott Foundation, and her daughter, Mary McDermott Cook, who now serves as President of the Foundation, have supported medical science, industry, education, the arts, and other important civic and community ventures.

All four corners of the UT Southwestern campus feature the McDermott name. In 1950, Mr. McDermott established the Biological Humanics Foundation, which in 1973 became the Eugene McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development at UT Southwestern. His generosity resulted in the creation of an endowment that supports the research and educational missions of the Center, which is directed by Dr. Helen Hobbs. Although Mrs. McDermott eschewed eponymous naming, she found it gratifying to honor the legacy of her beloved husband through gifts to establish the Eugene McDermott Plaza, the Eugene McDermott Administration Building, the Eugene McDermott Basic Science Research Building, and the Eugene McDermott Center for Pain Management – each distinctive physical spaces on campus and architectural expressions of the Medical Center's commitment to the integration of its academic, research, and clinical missions.

The McDermott Foundation and family also have always been supportive of UT Southwestern in thoughtful and innovative ways. In addition to their support of our mission to serve the people of Dallas and the region by providing excellent clinical care, conducting leading-edge research, and teaching the next generation of health care professionals, Mrs. McDermott added her

personal touch to UT Southwestern as well. She donated more than 500 works of art from around the globe, especially Asian and African textiles that are displayed throughout Zale Lipshy University Hospital, along with photography of the Texas landscape and sculptural tables designed by renowned architect Santiago Calatrava, which are featured on the 14th floor of the T. Boone Pickens Biomedical Building. Not content to simply fund the acquisition of these artworks, she also used her keen eye and cultivated knowledge in the selection and placement of these campus treasures.

As a guiding force behind some of UT Southwestern's most vital programs, Mrs. McDermott has been one of the Medical Center's most beloved and devoted supporters. The McDermotts contributed endowment funds to establish and uphold numerous Chairs in UT Southwestern departments. Their gifts supported projects relating to student and faculty activities and scholarships, as well as provided matching funds to establish the George N. Peters, M.D., Center for Breast Surgery, the Charles and Jane Pak Center for Mineral Metabolism and Clinical Research, and the Coordinated Program for Research and Treatment of Autism at UT Southwestern. Indeed, countless research projects in digestive diseases, nuclear magnetic resonance imaging, chemotherapy, autism, and fragile X were propelled forward as a result of the McDermotts' generosity.

Mrs. McDermott's latest gift, made in concert with the Eugene McDermott Foundation, was given to enhance the new William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital with landscapes by acclaimed landscape architect Peter Walker. This gift is in addition to Mrs. McDermott's \$10 million lead contribution in 2011 to the \$200 million *Building the Future of Medicine* campaign for the new hospital, as well as the McDermott Foundation's prior gift of \$1 million.

Upon making the gift for the hospital landscaping, Mrs. McDermott said, "The new hospital, named for former Governor of Texas William P. Clements Jr., brings new distinction to this city. World-class administration, noted medical expertise in various departments, cutting-edge technological equipment, art in attractive surroundings, plus Peter Walker and company's famous landscape design give new reasons for Texas pride – bragging rights, too."

Margaret McDermott was a rare friend and visionary. I am challenged to express fully the gratitude we have for all that she has done. We are immensely grateful for Margaret and Eugene McDermott's confidence in UT Southwestern, and for all that they did and stood for in this city, state, and nation. Although she will be deeply missed by all who knew her, Mrs. McDermott's enduring legacy will live on at UT Southwestern.

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