

FAMILY CREATES ENDOWMENT IN HONOR OF PHYSICIAN'S ENDURING DEDICATION TO PATIENTS AND EDUCATION

Craig Roberson said the Cy-Fair Educational Foundation endowment that has been created in his beloved late wife's name – Dr. Susie Davis-Roberson – is a testament to the many sacrifices she made to attain her education, and her fierce devotion to her patients and medical practice.

"She really made a difference," Roberson said. "She made a difference in people's lives, and she did it every single day."

Dr. Susie Davis-Roberson passed away July 13, 2009 after a battle with ovarian cancer.

Her husband, Craig Roberson, 20-year-old daughter Courtney, and 17-year-old son, C.J., made the decision to set up the endowment after several friends, neighbors, patients and colleagues called the family to find out where they could make charitable donations in her memory.

Roberson said the idea for the endowment scholarship was brought to the family by Terry Wheeler, Chief Executive Officer of Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center, which is where Dr. Davis-Roberson housed her family medical practice.

Wheeler said Dr. Davis-Roberson cared for thousands of patients in the Cy-Fair community during her 20-plus years at Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center.

"She was a devoted physician and caretaker," Wheeler said. "She left an impression on everyone she met. We were blessed to have her, and she is greatly missed."

The idea struck home, Roberson said. Donations made in her name are close to the \$20,000 mark needed to launch the endowment.

"My wife dedicated so much time and effort to her education," Roberson said. "And because of that, she was able to help so many people."

He said the only criteria he has asked to be part of the endowment scholarship, which will be awarded each year to a graduating senior in Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District, is that the student be pursuing a science-related degree.

Dr. Davis-Roberson grew up the oldest of seven siblings in Brookshire west of Houston. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of Houston, and a Master's Degree in Biology from Texas Southern University. She worked with the legendary Dr. Sunday Fadulu on sickle cell research.

She went received her doctorate of medicine in 1981 from the University of Texas Medical School, and her internship at The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. She conducted her residency at UTMB Galveston and Memorial Southwest.

She initially set up her practice in Brookshire.

Craig and Susie were introduced in 1986 by Dr. Lynn Gibbs and married in 1988. They moved to the Cy-Fair area, and she relocated her practice to Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center in an 800-square-foot office.

"Her practice never brought her riches monetarily, but she was rich in so many other ways," Roberson said.

He said she gave her patients her full attention and compassion. It did not matter if they could pay or not – she treated them. Her waiting room was often full, and at times there was a line out of the door because she did not rush through her appointments.

Many of Dr. Davis-Roberson's patients drove for hours to see her. She was a beacon of light, Roberson said.

"The other day I realized that in 21 years of marriage, Susie never once raised her voice at me," Roberson said. "She had such a kind, gentle demeanor and such a warm personality. So many people loved her."

Roberson said many patients brought her gifts – vegetables from their own gardens, home-made dishes – to express their appreciation for her kindness.

"You never know who you are going to touch," Roberson said.

The couple bought a 20-acre farm in Crockett, Texas in 2002 with the goal of retiring there once their children were out of college.

Roberson said he was going to sell the property, but had decided to hold onto it for the present.

For now, he said, he is taking it one day at a time. He said the family finds comfort in the knowledge that students will be able to pursue their higher education goals with help from the Dr. Susie Davis-Roberson Memorial Scholarship Endowment.

The Cy-Fair Educational Foundation' Endowment Program allows the creation of an endowed scholarship in the name of private individuals, corporations and organizations, in memory of individuals and in honor of individuals.

Endowments may be established in the amounts of \$20,000, \$50,000, \$100,000 or more. Each year, only a portion of the invested income earned is spent while the remainder is added to the original principal. An endowment is a perpetual gift because only the interest is used to support the Foundation while the principle continuously grows.

A scholarship will be given in perpetuity to a student who meets the requirements of that scholarship. Also, a permanent endowment wall has been established at the Richard E. Berry Instructional Center to recognize donors and/or the person for whom the scholarship is named.

For more information about the Endowment Program, call Cy-Fair Educational Foundation executive director Marie Holmes at 832-381-2333, marie@thecfef.org or visit www.thecfef.org