

Gustave Antoine Mistrot, III
May 16, 1929 – November 16, 2017



Gustave A. Mistrot was the Third President, Robert Rankin Chapter, March 2005 to February 2006.

Gustave Antoine Mistrot, III, 88, died on Thursday, November 16, 2017. He was born at St. Joseph's Hospital in Houston on May 16, 1929, the only child of Gustave Antoine Mistrot, Jr. and Emily Helene Marion Kirlicks Mistrot. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Bernice Bell Mistrot; his brother-in-law, Fred Bell and wife Lynne; nieces Alison and Stephanie Bell; his only surviving first cousin, Larry Schofield; and numerous more distant cousins in the Mistrot, Patout, Kirlicks, and Thomas families.

Personal: Gus is a fourth generation Houstonian, born in 1929. He married Bernice Bell in 1984 at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Houston. He was a member of St. John Vianney parish for 33 years. Always devoted to his Catholic faith, he was a 68-year member of the Knights of Columbus, a charter member of Council 3205 of College Station, Past Grand Knight of both Council 3279 of Sinton and Council 803 of Houston (of which his namesake grandfather was Grand Knight in 1909), and a member of Msgr. George A. Wilhelm Fourth Degree Assembly 1094. Gus was a Cub Scout Master for three years when he lived in South Texas and is a recipient of the Scouters Key.

Educational: Gus was salutatorian of the St. Thomas High School Class of 1946 and a petroleum engineering graduate of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, Class of 1950, where he lettered in fencing. He had a lifelong devotion to both institutions, and was always grateful for the education and discipline provided by the Basilian Fathers and the Aggie Corps of Cadets.

Professional: His first job upon graduation was with the Railroad Commission of Texas, followed by several energy companies. A Legion of Honor Member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers, he was named a Distinguished Member of that

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organization in 1987 for his many years of volunteer work on the national petroleum engineering licensing exam. He was a Registered Professional Engineer in Texas, Louisiana, Colorado, and Georgia. He retired from Conoco in 1994.

Historical/Genealogical: After his marriage to Bernice on September 3, 1984, they began researching his family history and became active in Concerned Citizens for Washington Cemetery Care, Inc. and its successor, Washington Cemetery Historic Trust. He served on the boards of CCWCC and WCHT for 31 years, the last 14 years as President of WCHT.

Gus was also a proud member of the Sons of the American Revolution, Robert Rankin and Alexander Hodge chapters; General Society of the War of 1812, Zachary Taylor chapter; Sons of the Republic of Texas, San Jacinto chapter; Sons of Confederate Veterans, Albert Sidney Johnston camp; and the Military Order of the Stars and Bars, Texas chapter.

He was honored by the Texas Society SAR with the Silver Good Citizenship Medal for his work over the last 15 years to mark the graves of 200 veterans of the War Between the States who are buried in Washington, Glenwood, and Magnolia cemeteries in Houston.

He was awarded the Jefferson Davis Medal by the United Daughters of the Confederacy in 2005, in recognition of his grave-marking activities.

Revolutionary War Ancestor: Francisco Segura, who served under General Bernardo de Galvez, in the 5th Company (Captain Francisco Bouligny), 1st Battalion, Fixed Louisiana Regiment. Present at the Battle of Manchac (aka Ft. Bute). Listed as one of the "Original Spanish Settlers" of the Attakapas District, Southwest Louisiana. He raised cattle after the War.

Eulogy by Thomas I. Jackson:

Gus and Bernice are inseparable and when you speak of one, you speak of both, but today is Gus's day. Gus taught and led and served by example. His was the pebble in the quiet pond that caused ripples that gently stretched to the banks on all sides.

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His faith and indomitable spirit gave me sustenance during two years of tortuous recovery. His allegiance to his faith, his school, and his integrity were unshakeable in the fiercest of storms.

When he and Bernice were in Engaged Encounter, a fellow participant saw his ring and asked if he was an Aggie and if so when did he graduate? Gus replied that he was and he was in the Class of 1950. The lady replied, “Oh, that was back when it was all boys,” and he said, “No Ma’am, we were all men.” Gus lived to serve his country and his fellow men.