

George Heard “Bud” Northington, IV

A seventh generation Texan, George Northington, continues his family’s involvement in the community through his personal and professional contributions to innumerable civic and business endeavors.

As a youth, Bud achieved Eagle Scout Status to reach Sea Explore level, raised Grand Champion livestock in the Wharton County Youth Fair for three consecutive years and participated in numerous leadership programs. As a young boy, he acquired speech training for his hearing loss as a boarding student at Central Institute for the Hearing Impaired in St. Louis, Missouri. After graduation from Wharton Texas High School he completed Associate Degrees from Wharton County Junior College in Business and Electronic Technology. He attended Stephen F. Austin University and Texas A & M University, majoring in Agriculture and Business.

His love of the automobile and mechanical and body-work skills spawned the establishment of his own automotive shop from 1967-1981 for Volkswagen, Porsche, BMW, Mercedes Benz. In 1985 he opened, “Bud’s Quality Restoration Service” specializing in the restoration of automobile-tractor and old home-building. In 1981, he trained as an aviation airframe, power plant mechanic and aviation electronics as he was pilot since 1968 but was called home due to his father’s illness and death in 1982 and become a rancher. In 1983 additionally, he successfully expanded these operations to include the restoration of antique, classic cars and hot rods. He became a well, sought-after specialist in automotive restoration, acquiring clients with extensive collections that are part of museum collections throughout the states of Texas, California, Florida, Louisiana and Oklahoma. His close and best customer friend was David Taylor of Taylor Cadillac dealer of Houston and did work with him in Galveston to created David Taylor Museum.

He also was pro race driver for NHRA as drag ¼ mile strip since 1959. His first drag race car was 1956 Ford with powered 1958 high performance Tri-Power Pontiac engine. He also installed many different engine into different cars to make street rod or build hot rod.. His last race and retired was back in 1998 with 1969 Camaro with big block nearly 1000+ hp engine. He broke couple of records with his 1957 Chevy high performance with factory 2 x 4 barrel carbs and four-speed with hard top and few 1969 Camaros.

He served on several advisory boards, assisting with the unique challenges of the hearing impaired: himself born with only 38% of hearing in one ear. In 1969 he worked on the Federal Communication Commission for pilot also Advisory Board for State of Texas successfully developing a telephone device (TTY) for Texas as Texas Relay Teletype communication service system for the hearing impaired and hearing. In 1968, he acquired an Aviation Pilot License to fly single aircraft later acquiring his own twin-engine aircraft and serving for seven years on the International Deaf Pilots Association’s board of directors as vice president.

Active in local community affairs, he has served the interest of his community. In 1987, he ran as candidate for Wharton County Commissioner as a Republican. He served as an active member of Future Farmers of America sponsoring children in agricultural ventures. Mr Northington served faithfully as a bible study leader in the Methodist Church. He has maintained an active status in Rotary International activities. He acted as advisor on the City of Wharton Beautification Committee, and former Chairman and former Vice Chairman with Texas Historical Commissioner of Wharton County, board of Museum Committee of Wharton Railroad Depot, Wharton County Court House movement to restore rather than demolish, as member of Wharton County Museum, Advisor Director for State School for the Deaf in Austin and Sunshine School for the Deaf in San Antonio, Director/ President/ Chairman/Savior for Egypt Plantation Museum, Inc. He is member of Sons of Republic of Texas, Son of Confederated Veteran, and now becoming to be Sons of America Revolution. He was also longtime volunteer and Board of Director for Wharton's Plaza Theatre since theatre restoration back in 1980s and retired to become Lifetime Honorary Member in 2010. He works with Wharton Plaza Theatre as technical & restoration adviser. He also did create several festivals for City of Wharton since 1967. Many Whartonians loves his being ideologist and hard working. He did great jobs for many car shows all over in Texas for over 51 yrs and still going.

He owned and operated several businesses such as Modern Welding Equipment Inc. of Texas selling, installing and servicing automotive body shop and industrial equipment throughout Texas, Former Egypt Plantation Antique Barn and Trade Days along with Egypt Plantation Dance Barn supporting music concerts, wedding/ wedding receptions, Electrical contractor under "Century Electric Service" of Wharton, and several more.

His primary interest is supporting the historical preservation and development of his family's Republic of Texas 1836 era farm and ranching facility in the regional community of Egypt, southwest of Houston, Texas.

He participates with several re-enactment associations, Texas Army of 1836, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Wharton County Timewalkers, Texas Legacy, Texas 11th Calvary, the George Ranch, the Alamo, Goliad, San Jacinto, Washington on The Brazos and several others. He appeared in films, 2004 Alamo, History Channel, PBS, Texas History programs in school videos. He is now working on books for future films and for some filmmakers, screen writers, authors such as "No Place but Texas" and Legend of David Crockett or Fall of Alamo.

He has his wife, Mary Margaret (Sampson) Northington and many lifelong friends and extended family throughout the country.

He is very pleased with his finest private education thru Central Institute (Speech Dept. in St. Louis, Mo.), Wharton High School, Wharton County Junior College and Stephen F. Austin University. He worked so hard to make proper communications with all of his student friends and teachers even Houston police department and Marine Military officers.