

Rufus J. Cleghorn, Jr.

Rufus Cleghorn Jr. grew up just outside of Waco, Texas, and served as the Director of Plant Operations at Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center of Waco during the 1980's. Those who knew Rufus personally can attest to his outstanding support of hospital engineering and the Texas Association of Healthcare Facilities Management. He served on the Board and as President in the late 80's and early 90's. He was the recipient of the Bob Paul Award for Excellence in Facilities Management in 1992.

Rufus was the type of man who openly shared his professional views as well as his personal observations. His style of management was to provide open communication and expectations, give praise and credit to individual team members and take personal responsibility for things that did not necessarily go the way we had planned. His pleasant demeanor and willingness to help made him a focal point in the society for new engineers learning the hospital engineering profession.

Rufus maintained a close working relationship with the Plant Engineering Technology Program at what was then Texas State Technical Institute, now called Texas State Technical College. Rufus had the keen insight to develop students in the discipline of healthcare engineering at TSTC for placement in Texas hospitals. With the help of Rufus, many students were placed in Texas hospitals for internships. Many of these students went on to permanent jobs at the facilities with which they interned and demonstrated the success of the program in developing engineers for such a challenging career. Rufus served on the Advisory Board for the College and gave valuable insight into curriculum development that would help prepare the students for a fast-paced career in healthcare.

Rufus passed away in 1992 in a car accident while returning from a consulting trip to Abilene. His untimely death left his loving wife and two young twin daughters devastated and left the healthcare engineering community in a state of shock. He was well respected not only professionally but personally as well. In an effort to carry on his desire to train future hospital engineers, TAHFM established the Rufus J. Cleghorn Jr. Scholarship Fund in his honor in 1995. This annual scholarship is available to students who meet the criteria established by the Board.

TAHFM started the first annual Rufus J. Cleghorn Memorial Golf Tournament in 2006 to facilitate the development of sustainable resources for the scholarship fund. Thanks to the generous sponsorships the committee's hard work and all those who participated last year, TAHFM is proud to present the 2008 Rufus J. Cleghorn Memorial Scholarship.