



Charles Walter Dobie

January 31, 1932 - September 29, 2018

Charles Walter Dobie, a Lafayette, Louisiana oilman who combined a successful career in oil and gas exploration with a passion for the arts, education, the Episcopal Church, and service to city and state, died Saturday. He was 86.

Known for his generous disposition, integrity in business and personal affairs, and boundless love for his wife, Ann, and his two sons, his good manners extended to all.

A native of El Dorado, Ark., Dobie graduated from Centenary College in Shreveport, where he majored in geology, followed by graduate study at the Colorado School of Mines. While at Centenary, his love of music, his perfect pitch, and rich bass voice resulted in four years of performances with the Centenary College choir and numerous other singing groups. One performance included an appearance on the Louisiana Hayride with country music star (and former Louisiana Gov.) Jimmie C. Davis.

Employed by Phillips Petroleum in Lafayette, to which he and Ann moved in 1958, Dobie later embarked on a career as an independent petroleum geologist based in the Oil Center, which occupied him for the rest of his career. Focused largely on oil and gas exploration in South Louisiana, he made discoveries in Lafourche, Terrebonne, and Beauregard Parishes, many with his former business associate and good friend Rutledge Deas.

Throughout his life, he traveled widely with Ann, including frequent trips to both New York City and Aspen, Colorado, where he indulged his love of classical music. Of Scottish descent, he loved all things about his ancestral homeland, and, with Ann, spent a summer in Edinburgh, much of it attending concerts at the Edinburgh Festival and Tattoo.

Committed to furthering the arts in his hometown, Dobie funded, launched, and organized a number of endeavors in Lafayette. He served as president of Lafayette Community Concerts, president of the Acadiana Arts Council, president and founding member of Chorale Acadienne, and president of the Acadiana Symphony Orchestra Board of Trustees. A lover also of the visual arts, Dobie was an inveterate modern art collector. A

collection of hundreds of antique maps, many of which were focused on South Louisiana, were assembled over the years and later donated to Centenary College.

A lifelong reader, learner, and lover of the liberal arts tradition, Dobie worked to bolster educational offerings in Lafayette. He served as president of the board of Ascension Day School (now Ascension Episcopal School) and president of the Episcopal School of Acadiana board of trustees. When Ascension Day School was in perilous financial condition in the mid-1960s, Dobie convinced others of a way forward, rounded up the money needed to survive, and the institution grew to become the thriving school it is today.

In higher education, Dobie served on the board of his alma mater, Centenary, where he established both the Dr. Ann Dobie and C. Walter Dobie Endowed Professorship of English, and the Ruth Dobie and Walter L. Dobie Memorial Endowed Scholarship. Dobie was named a Distinguished Alumnus and member of the Alumni Hall of Fame in 2013.

For 12 years, Dobie served as commissioner on the Louisiana Civil Service Commission and was awarded the Civil Service Monte M. Lehmann Award for outstanding leadership. He served as both president and vice-president of the Lafayette Geological Society and was a longstanding member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

At his beloved Episcopal Church of the Ascension, where he was a regular in both the pews and choir stalls, Dobie served as a member of the vestry and its senior warden. One of Dobie's most enjoyable projects, to which he contributed hours of travel around the country, was partially underwriting the purchase of a Wicks pipe organ for the church and leading the search for a new organist and choir director. Later he was selected to serve as a member of the Finance Committee for the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana.

In addition to his wife, Ann, Dobie is also survived by his sons, Bruce (Laura Lee) of Nashville and Chuck (Dawn) of Denver; a brother, Joe; a sister, Mary Ruth; four grandchildren (Ellen, Aaron, Hannah, and Rob); and one great grandchild (Rose).

A Memorial service will be held Thursday, 4 p.m., at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension. Reverend Joseph Daly, Rector, the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, will conduct the services. Visitation will precede the service at 3 p.m. in the church's Coughlin Hall.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Acadiana Symphony Orchestra or the Episcopal Church of the Ascension.

View the obituary and guestbook online at <http://www.mourning.com>

Martin & Castille-DOWNTOWN-330 St. Landry St., Lafayette, LA 70506, 337-234-2311

Events

OCT **Visitation** 03:00PM - 04:00PM

4

Coughlin Hall-Episcopal Church of the Ascension
Lafayette, LA, US

OCT **Memorial Mass** 04:00PM - 05:00PM

4

Episcopal Church of the Ascension
1030 Johnston Street, Lafayette, LA, US, 70501

Comments



“ If Lafayette had an award for best all-around citizen – it would go to Walter Dobie. And he did it all with a terrific sense of humor and a big heart. I shared many laughs with Mr. Dobie and very much appreciated his career advice and insight. My memory of Mr. Dobie goes all the way back to first grade -- when he would spin around town in his red convertible roadster and he would stop by Ascension Day School to pick up his two boys. (Bruce and Chuck were small enough to fit in the one passenger seat.) To a life well lived! Sending beaucoup love to the Dobie family.
Karen L. Jones (Falls Church, VA)

Karen L. Jones - October 07, 2018 at 04:38 PM



“ Walter Dobie leaves us, but he leaves us with the memories of a life lived in steadfast devotion as a husband and as a father. In our time of moral chaos, a life so lived bears the stamp of the extraordinary. But Walter was an extraordinary in many ways.

His achievement in his profession brought him respect and success. And that success he shared, in acts of philanthropy for his church and for the community at large, all quietly rendered, hidden from public notice. His death brings sorrow but it is leavened with joy†. He will be missed.

Maurice duQuesnay

Maurice - October 04, 2018 at 06:39 PM



“ Ann, Charles and Bruce,

Sending so much love. The memories with y'all growing up are endless. From playing kick the can to the grammar lessons at the dinner table. The Dobies are a permanent fixture in my Lafayette memories.

Bunny Deas Hicks

Bunny Deas Hicks - October 04, 2018 at 08:41 AM



“ Mr. Dobie was a great man! I regret that I will not be able to make his funeral, but I will be praying for him and his family. My Mom, Elsie Parratt, spoke highly of him.

Janet Tessier

Janet Tessier - October 03, 2018 at 05:49 PM



“ An incredibly gracious, talented, and kindly spirit who will be missed by all. Our deepest sympathies to Ann and the children.... We will be out of town Thursday but will be thinking of you, Ann. Jack and Gina Ferstel

Jack Ferstel - October 03, 2018 at 01:25 AM



“ Ann,

Walter practiced the art of conversation. Around town, he and I would often catch each other by surprise, usually as we rounded the corner of the Oil Center Post Office—at the same time, and, always, from opposite directions. We'd stop, mid-errand, and before long, we'd be caught up in a conversation about music and travel. My favorite chance encounter was at a Highland Festival in Jackson, Louisiana, many years ago. Standing in a food line, I turned away from my friends to find myself face to face with Walter, who was politely waiting for me to notice him, another out-of-town visitor. You were at a conference or workshop, and there he was, in the midst of his own adventure. Every time I met him, I left feeling as though I'd just traveled to some beautiful spot with a friend. Your husband was a generous and gracious man. I am sorry for your heart's sadness. To you and your family: I wish you peace.

Joan

Joan Stear - October 02, 2018 at 08:18 PM



“ We, too, are saddened at the news of Walter's death. Sharing his love for the arts - especially choral music, I was pleased to be part of his work with Lafayette Community Concerts and Chorale Acadienne. Such a fine gentleman comes along once or twice in a lifetime, and he was just that. He will be sadly missed. Ann and boys, know of our concern, love, and prayers. Velma and Robert (Clem) Clement

Velma & Robert Clement - October 02, 2018 at 05:24 PM



“ Dearest Ann, Bruce and Charles...
The Dobie household was always a second home to me growing up. I was there so much, I remember Walter once threatened to claim me as a dependent on his tax. My life will always be filled with wonderful memories of the Dobie clan. As big a loss and sad a time as this is, it is comforting to know that Walter will be a welcome sight when the time comes for the rest of us. And even better news... there's no income tax in heaven! My love and prayers are with you all! - Kerry Graves

Kerry Graves - October 02, 2018 at 05:19 PM



“ Dear Ann,
I am just so sorry to hear about Walter. You both were so special to my parents, Norman and Florence. I guess now they will be playing more music together. Know you are in my prayers.
xoxo, Norma Fisher Killgore

Norma Killgore - October 02, 2018 at 03:49 PM



“ Dear Bruce, and the entire Dobie family
Charles Walter Dobie sounds like my kind of guy. Wish I had the chance to meet him. A true Renaissance man. Bruce your words about your dad paint a vivid picture and the love for him is felt through those descriptions. We pray for his soul, his work is done, may he now rest in peace.
Bob Mueller H&F's

Bob Mueller - October 01, 2018 at 09:36 PM



“ Mrs Ann,

So very sorry to hear this news, but was so happy to have know him. You and your family will be in my prayers. If we can be of any help along the way, please do not hesitate.

Monica Guidry
Fontana Center

Monica Guidry - October 01, 2018 at 02:47 PM



“ Ann and Family,
I worked at PPCo with Walt in the 60's. He was such a kind man and co-worker, always with a smile for everyone. As one of his secretaries, I experienced his patience and kindness daily. I am truly sorry for your loss and know that you carry many wonderful memories of your husband and father. Thoughts and prayers are with you during this time.
Joanne Broussard Mills

Joanne Mills - October 01, 2018 at 01:15 PM



“ To Ann, Bruce and Charles,
Walt was the perfect friend. Most of all, he initiated the slogan....Keep culture alive In Acadiana. And he was a founding member of the Krewe of Opea Nuts. I knew when he would call and say....Hubbell, what are we going to do.?....it meant we would have a meeting to fix whatever was in need. And off we went! He did it all. We loved him dearly.
Gerry Hubbell and Jerry Hubbell

Geraldine Hubbell - October 01, 2018 at 12:29 PM



“ I was so saddened to see the notice for Mr. Dobie. I saw him, along with Ann, at the grocery store on a regular basis and always enjoyed talking with them. He was truly a gentlemen, as described! Both of them are such gracious people. He will be missed. My sincere condolences to Ann and the family. I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers. Dale Ann Bacon



Dale Ann Bacon - October 01, 2018 at 11:45 AM



“ Oh my goodness . . . we, too, are saddened at the news of this wonderful man's death. He was such a fine upstanding person who was kind to all, loved music and the arts and never failed to support all those endeavors. Know of our love, support and prayers for his wonderful family. Velma & Robert (Clem) Clement

Velma & Robert Clement - October 01, 2018 at 09:53 AM