

# Claude D. Ervin

When Claude O. Ervin left his boyhood home in the Mississippi Delta town of Ripley, Tennessee, in 1958; he was determined to make his way in life by serving mankind. That September, with only \$2 in his pocket, Ervin started his lifelong mission of giving back. Ervin joined the U.S. Air Force in 1958, serving more than 20 years before retiring. He became a human resources administrator at Baylor University, a post he held for more than two decades, and he remains an active member of his community in the Waco suburb of West.

As a member of the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children (TSRHC) board of trustees, Ervin represents TSRHC in the community and throughout the state to support the hospital's mission of providing the highest quality care for Texas children at no charge to patient families.

"This opportunity to serve the hospital is the single most honorable duty I have ever received," Ervin said. "I continue to feel that we are giving people an opportunity to be what they can be and allow them to become self-sufficient."

Although he had long received lectures on the value of Masonry from his wife's grandfather, a 65-year Mason from Louisiana, Ervin didn't find the motivation to become a Scottish Rite Mason until 1978 when his oldest daughter, Debra, was becoming active in the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. Ervin couldn't imagine life without his Masonic work and received the Golden Trowel Award for service to Masonry and the community. He is treasurer for the White Rock Masonic Lodge #347 and Grand Senior Steward for the Masonic Grand Lodge of Texas. Ervin is the Personal Representative of the Deputy in Texas and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Waco Scottish Rite Bodies.

*"The tenants and principles of Masonry are as relevant today as they were in the past. People are out every day doing good for their fellow human."*

*— Claude O. Ervin*

He is also involved with the Rotary Club of Northwest Waco and the Columbus Avenue Baptist Church. He serves as director and officer of the Dr Pepper Museum and Free Enterprise Institute, director of the Central Texas Senior Ministries, member of the Baylor Bear Foundation, and Life Member of the Baylor Alumni Association. He has been involved with the Samaritan Counseling Center of Central Texas, Baylor University Employees Credit Union, and the Heart of Texas chapter of the Society for Human Resource Managers.

Ervin earned his bachelor's degree in psychology in 1970 from Bellevue University in Nebraska and later received Bellevue University's Alumni Achievement Award. He completed his master's degree in educational and industrial psychology in 1973 from Louisiana Tech University. Ervin and his wife, Martha, were married on June 24, 1960. They have two children, Debra and Elizabeth, and five grandchildren.