

Edinburg 4-H Foundation
Scholarships Presented in Memory of



Betty Brown

Mrs. Betty Brown was a 4-H adult leader that helped set the standards of leadership for other Edinburg 4-H parents to follow. She “hailed” Jack, Steven and Carrie Beth to many an event stopping only to add another child to her car pool. She is credited with persuading parents to support and participate in activities with their children. Mrs. Brown’s children today wish for the board to extend to you, the graduates, their sincere wishes for a bright future and hope that someday you will return to the program as adults to take up the leadership torch that their mother left behind.



Jody Dufour Longoria

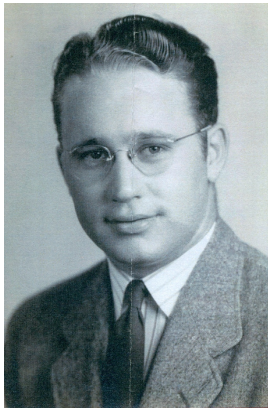
Jody Longoria was an Edinburg high school teacher, and Edinburg 4-H member in her youth following her 3 older sisters in the program. In later years she and her family moved back to the Valley and one of their family priorities was to make sure that their two sons became active in the 4-H and FFA programs. To her "active" meant that the entire family as a team would be committed as members and she and her husband would become leaders in volunteering to the fullest at every activity in their club and community. Along with her husband Os and her sons Justin and Kyle Jody left behind not only her love for the program and she continued to believe that her untimely battle with cancer would not tear her family apart. It was Jody's wish that all Edinburg 4-H youth push themselves in accepting challenges to make the best better and to hang onto your dreams as you can wish upon a star. She gave 24 years as an adult leader to the Edinburg 4-H program.



J.C. Looney

Mr. Looney came to the Valley in October 1926 to set up a law firm. His influences in Texas history are profound. Some of his credits include numerous banking interests, confidant of the late President Lyndon B Johnson, Hidalgo County Judge, Chairman of the Hidalgo County Democrat Party for 20 years, former member of the Texas Coordinating Board of Colleges and Universities, former Director of the Texas Department of Public Safety, past regent of Pan American University and senior warden and vestryman at Trinity Episcopal Church in Pharr and he was one of the charter directors of the Hidalgo County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Board. Other business interests included Valley Transit Company, Progreso International Bridge, KGBT Broadcasting and Weatherford International. In 1933 he married the former Margaret Montgomery, the daughter of a prominent Hidalgo County leader at that time. He had three children

Cullen, Margaret and D'Ette. Mr. Looney's love for business ventures never surpassed his love for his family and children and all of their projects as they grew up. His wife became one of the most influential 4-H adult leaders of that time. His son Cullen was one of the first Edinburg 4-H graduates. When he returned to Hidalgo County to establish himself in his legal career he never forgot his love for the 4-H program. Over the years Cullen has been Edinburg 4-H's legal advisor and was one of the trustees that established the Edinburg 4-H Foundation Scholarship Program. Mr. Looney was a kind and loving man that extended his talents and guidance to so many in Hidalgo County. Governor John B. Connally at an appreciation dinner once summed it up best. Mr. JC Looney's life should be remembered as a tribute to a man who has given so much of himself for this state and nation.



A.A. Martin

Al Martin was one of the original and founding Edinburg 4-H Trustees who obtained the property upon which the 4-H clubhouse was built in 1958 and served in that capacity for 46 years. When it came to 4-H, the Hidalgo County Mounted Drill Team was one of his favorites. He supported the drill team as it traveled to compete and perform all across the state for many years. Mr. Martin gave generously of his time, effort and means to the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show for over fifty years. Serving first as General Superintendent of Livestock for a number of years then as chairman of various committees including the Horse Show & Rodeo. He was a dedicated member of the Board of Directors from 1973 to 2004. He proudly served his country during World War II, retiring as a U.S. Army Captain in 1946. He was very civic minded and in addition to being involved with the Livestock Show, he was a charter member of the Hidalgo County Sheriffs Posse, a member of the Board of Regents of Pan American College and a past president and director of the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce. In recognition of his dedicated civic service, in 2006 he was inducted into the Rio Grande Valley Walk of Fame at Hidalgo. Al will long be remembered and missed by the many persons who were fortunate enough to have had him cross their paths. He is survived by nine children, 27 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren.



Randy Miller

Randy Miller was a graduate of Edinburg High School and Texas A&M University. He graduated from college with a degree in Dairy Science and quickly returned home to manage the largest most innovative farm and dairy operation in Texas alongside his mother and father. As a 4-H'er Randy served his club and community in every club office. He showed dairy cattle at the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show with his two sisters every year and he spent his summers working in the field and traveling the state with other 4-H members attending leadership conferences. No one in Texas will ever forget his enthusiasm, friendship and love for laughter. His greatest 4-H accomplishment was representing Hidalgo County and the state of Texas at the National 4-H Congress as State 4-H President. Honors Randy received as an adult included being selected Member of the Year by the Hidalgo County Farm Bureau. Randy's last job was as a Southwest Dairy Instructor. Randy left the dairy farm only to take up teaching about the world he knew best. He needed no script, he had lived it all. This new outdoor

classroom was comfortable for Randy as he had so many his tales to share and some of them could have been tall tales. Traveling with his cow teaching and meeting people was his greatest gift. Had Randy written a book we think the title might have been “Life on the Farm – The Randy Edition”. It would have been a best seller.



Neva Smith

Mrs. Smith was one of the most dynamic 4-H adult leaders for the Edinburg 4-H Club. Mrs. Smith’s leadership extended through the years of her son, Smitty, (Dewey Jr.), and her two grandsons. There was never a child that she would not help with a project or the dreaded record book. Mrs. Smith had the grandma’s touch that made everything OK at the end of the day. She was most known for her famous cabbage slaw dressing recipe that was used at every 4-H chicken BBQ. This annual BBQ helped the club to raise enough money to purchase and build its own clubhouse with a large enough patio that allowed the youth to learn how to dance. In those early years of the club’s activities this was quite an accomplishment. Together she and Mrs. Brown took up the torch left by Mrs. Townsend and Mrs. Looney that helped Hidalgo County 4-H youth flourish at the county, district and state levels. Added to these credits numerous Edinburg 4-H’ers throughout the years have been selected to attend National 4-H Conferences. This is the highest honor a person can achieve in the program.



Pauline Townsend

Pauline Townsend moved to the Rio Grande Valley in 1933 from a cattle ranch in Missouri. She married Charles E. Townsend in 1934. They raised citrus, cotton and vegetables until their retirement. Pauline Townsend was a very strong supporter and voice for 4-H in Hidalgo County. She assisted in the formation of a group of 4-H supporters including Al Martin, JC Looney, Mrs. Dewey Smith, Mrs. Medina and Betty Brown that lead to the construction of the Edinburg 4-H club house. The club house became the guiding center that was used by many 4-H’ers to support young people to succeed in the leadership experiences 4-H had to offer. Mrs. Townsend was a woman of integrity, strength and generosity. She gave unselfishly of her time to others. Her wisdom, warmth and value counsel will not be forgotten by those who knew her.