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October 16, 2024

Mrs. Barbara Tomes and Family
6009 Settlement Way
McKinney, TX 75070

Regarding: Honoring Robert Tomes with Deepest Sympathy and Gratitude

Dear Mrs. Tomes,


I was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of your beloved husband, Robert "Bob" Tomes. I want to extend my condolences to you and your family during this difficult time. Bob was a man of great integrity, dedication, and generosity—qualities that were evident in every aspect of his life, from his distinguished military service to his leadership within the community. His legacy is of honor, service, and love for his family and friends.

On Veterans Day, we will honor Bob once more, and I would be honored to present you with his Congressional Veteran Commendation. Though he is no longer with us, his memory and the values he upheld will continue to inspire us all. Please know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers as you navigate this difficult time.

Bob's life had an immense impact, and his love for you, your son Brandon, and his cherished grandchildren was a cornerstone of his happiness. His legacy will continue through all of you and the many lives he touched in McKinney and beyond.

Please accept my deepest sympathy, and may you find strength and comfort in the love surrounding you.

With my sincerest condolences,



Keith Self
Member of Congress



"Bob Tomes lived a life that was rich in personal and professional achievements, and those who were privileged to share in his love and affection will forever hold him close in their hearts."
— Texas House of Representatives Resolution, 2024

Robert "Bob" Tomes (1945–2024)

A Legacy of Service, Leadership, and Community

Early Life and Military Service

Robert "Bob" Tomes was born in San Antonio in 1945 and raised in Nebraska. He graduated from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln in 1968 and immediately enlisted in the U.S. Army. He served 18 months in the Vietnam War with the Military Assistance Command – Vietnam (MACV), where he earned a Bronze Star for meritorious service. He returned home in 1972 and was honorably discharged at the rank of Captain.

After leaving the Army, Tomes began a career with Ford Motor Company in Omaha, NE and later Houston, TX. In 1983 he and his wife, Barbara, took a leap of faith and moved to McKinney to open Bob Tomes Ford. He grew that enterprise into the Tomes Auto Group (which today includes Ford, Subaru, Volkswagen and Mitsubishi dealerships) and became known for blending business success with community stewardship.

Business Leadership and Community Stewardship

As a local businessman, Bob Tomes led by example. He saw McKinney's potential and embraced entrepreneurship, but he made clear from the start that his success would be from becoming a part of the community as "good stewards of McKinney." He proudly embraced his self-appointed nickname "Mr. McKinney," reflecting his intense interest in all community residents and his friendly, personal outreach.

Under his leadership, the Tomes Auto Group not only sold cars but also organized regular give-back campaigns. These initiatives included collecting over 106,000 diapers for the Baby Booties Diaper Bank, 10,000 pairs of socks for StreetSide Showers, 1,000+ pairs of shoes for the Children's Advocacy Center, new air-conditioning units for Meals on Wheels, 400 chickens to McKinney Roots, and constructing a bicycle barn at the Samaritan Inn. The family also established scholarship funds for local students and supported McKinney's growth through civic engagement.

Community Leadership and Civic Engagement

Bob Tomes held numerous volunteer and leadership roles in McKinney over the years. He was past President of the Rotary Club of McKinney, past Chairman of the McKinney Chamber of Commerce, and former Chairman of the United Way of Collin County. He also

served on the boards of the Volunteer McKinney Center, McKinney Way, and McKinney Economic Development Corporation. He supported McKinney Police & Firefighters Associations, was a lifetime member of the American Legion, and volunteered with the Boy Scouts of America, receiving the Silver Beaver Award for distinguished service.

In each of these roles, Bob brought the same energy and “people-first” approach he showed in business. He was frequently seen at community events, greeting neighbors with his signature firm handshake and genuine smile saying, “Top of the day to you!”

Philanthropic Support for Local Organizations

Beyond leadership positions, Bob Tomes personally championed a broad range of nonprofits and charities. Supported organizations included the McKinney Education Foundation, Samaritan Inn, ManeGait Therapeutic Riding Center, Boys & Girls Club of Collin County, Community Health Clinic of Collin County, Heritage Guild, Heard-Craig Center for the Arts, First United Methodist Church of McKinney, and the McKinney Chamber of Commerce.

In all these efforts, Tomes lived out his belief in being a good steward of his hometown by investing time and resources into people. By combining business success with structured philanthropy, he modeled civic responsibility for generations of North Texas businessmen.

Awards and Recognition

Robert “Bob” Tomes received numerous awards honoring his community leadership, including:

- Citizens of the Year (1991) – McKinney Chamber of Commerce
- Large Business of the Year, Bob Tomes Ford (2001) – McKinney Chamber of Commerce
- Silver Beaver Award (2004) – Boy Scouts of America
- Texas Large Family Business of the Year (2018) – Baylor University
- Large Business of the Year, Brandon Tomes Subaru (2023) – McKinney Chamber of Commerce
- Good Samaritan Award (2023) The Samaritan Inn
- Congressional Veteran Accommodation (2024) – Congressman Keith Self
- Pete & Nancy Huff Community Service Legacy Award (2025) – Volunteer McKinney
- MCDC Quality of Life Award (2025) – McKinney Community Development Corporation

Each of these honors reflects a different facet of his impact: as a business leader, community builder, and steadfast volunteer.

Personal Character and Legacy

Friends and colleagues remember Bob Tomes as warm, generous, and endlessly positive. His nickname “Mr. McKinney” captured his enthusiasm for the city and its people. He never met a stranger and greeted everyone with genuine interest. After his passing, the outpouring of condolences confirmed his status in the community.

Bob Tomes was equally devoted to his family. He married Barbara in 1981 and together they raised their son, Brandon. In later years, he delighted in being a grandfather (“Bobo”) to his three grandchildren. His legacy lives on through his family, the Tomes Auto Group, and the countless community projects he led.

Naming a public park in his honor would celebrate the values he embodied: servant leadership, generosity, and a warm welcome to every neighbor.

RE: Nomination of Bob Tomes for the MCDL Quality of Life Award

Dear Members of the McKinney Community Development Corporation,

I am writing to wholeheartedly recommend Bob Tomes as a recipient of the prestigious MCDL Quality of Life Award. Affectionately known as "Mr. McKinney," Bob dedicated his life to enhancing the well-being of our community. His enduring legacy as a devoted family man, accomplished businessman, and passionate community advocate makes him an exemplary candidate for this honor.

Bob's unwavering commitment to McKinney is evident through his extensive involvement in local organizations. He served as Past President of the McKinney Rotary Club, Chairman of the McKinney Chamber of Commerce, and a board member of the McKinney Economic Development Corporation. His dedication extended to causes such as Volunteer McKinney, McKinney Police and Firefighters Support, and the McKinney Way, among others.

Under Bob's visionary leadership, the Tomes Auto Group championed numerous philanthropic efforts. He supported organizations such as the McKinney Education Foundation, ManeGait, the Samaritan Inn, and the Boys and Girls Club. In addition, his contributions to the development of critical facilities like the Federally Funded Health Care Facility and the Children and Community Health Clinic highlight his enduring commitment to improving the lives of McKinney residents.

Bob's exceptional contributions did not go unnoticed. He was named Citizen of the Year by the McKinney Chamber in 1991, Large Business of the Year in 2001, and Baylor University's Texas Large Family Business of the Year in 2018. These accolades are a testament to the profound respect and admiration he earned through his tireless efforts to enhance our city.

I can think of no one more deserving of this award than Bob Tomes. His boundless dedication to McKinney, coupled with his ability to inspire and uplift those around him, truly embodies the spirit of the MCDL Quality of Life Award.

Thank you for considering this nomination. Bob's enduring legacy continues to inspire all of us to strive for the betterment of our community.

Sincerely,

David Riche