

Walter Stoneham Scholarship

Walter Stoneham is the epitome of professionalism and also what one would characterize as a gentleman. He has served as a role model for many in our field for his innovative thinking, mentorship and dedication to TAAO.

Walter was involved in the San Antonio business community for many years before entering the property tax field. From 1964 - 1984, he served as Executive Director of the Research and Planning Council in San Antonio. A good deal of his research was devoted to the Texas property tax system. His research was paramount in crafting State Representative Wayne Peveto's landmark legislation in 1979, which reformed the Texas property tax system and created appraisal districts throughout Texas. During 1984, Walter accepted a position as a Research Analyst for the Bexar Central Appraisal District. There he worked closely with the Chief Appraiser in public affairs administration as ongoing research projects. Upon the Chief Appraiser's retirement in 1987, Walter was named Chief Appraiser of the Bexar County Central Appraisal District. He held that position until his retirement in 1997.

During his time in the property tax profession, Walter was very active in



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TAAO. He served as an instructor and was centrally involved with the planning and the success of the annual conference. One week after his retirement in 1997, tragically, Walter was seriously injured in a bicycle accident and was left unable to participate in TAAO activities from that time forward. Keeping in mind his devotion to TAAO and running, one year after his unfortunate accident, TAAO formed the Water Stoneham Memorial Fun Run in his honor.

The proceeds raised by the annual event have funded the TAAO education Scholarship since its inception in 2002. Although Walter passed away on December 5, 2016, he has served as an inspiring figure to our membership and those who have participated. It is a fitting continuing legacy for a man who never gave up in his efforts to help his friends and his fellow professionals.