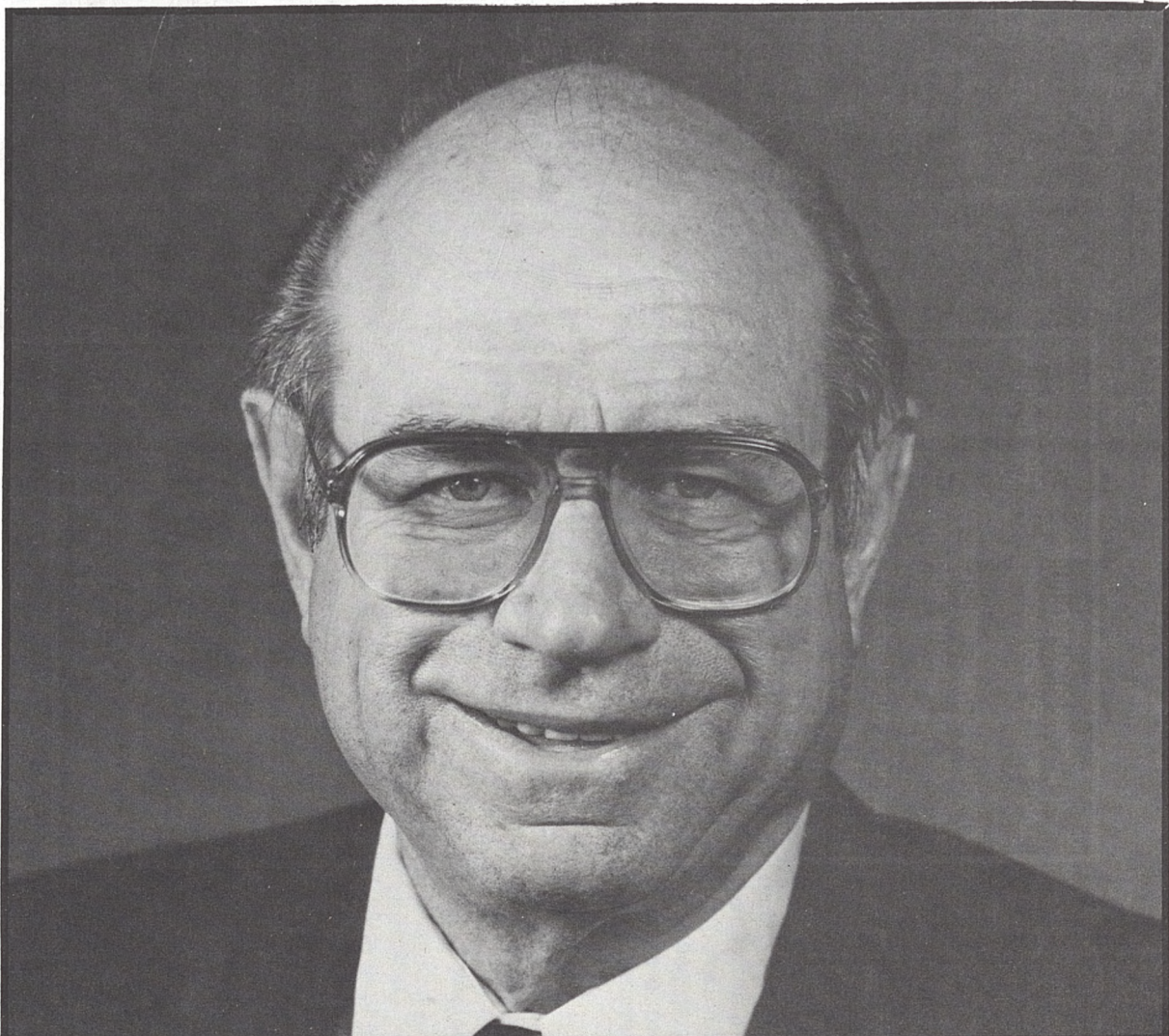


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# TRANSPORTATION news



**Raymond E. Stotzer Jr.**  
**1925-1989**

State Department of Highways  
and Public Transportation

Special Edition  
October 1989

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## What's inside . . .

Raymond E. Stotzer Jr.'s death this month at age 64 closed a career of dedication to transportation, both in his beloved Texas and through the nation.

**Story begins this page**

Stotzer's highway department commitment was more than a job — it was his vocation.

**See page 3**

Stotzer left a legacy both in the highway system and among the people whose lives he touched, Deputy Engineer-Director Byron Blaschke said in his eulogy.

**See page 3**

As an engineer, as an Aggie, as a leader, and as a proud member of the "highway family," Stotzer is remembered by his friends and colleagues.

The engineer **See page 4**

The Aggie **See page 5**

The leader **See pages 5-6**

The "family" man **See page 7**

In his own words, Stotzer left messages of support and inspiration.

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Milestones in Stotzer's career

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# TRANSPORTATION news

**SPECIAL ISSUE  
OCTOBER 1989**

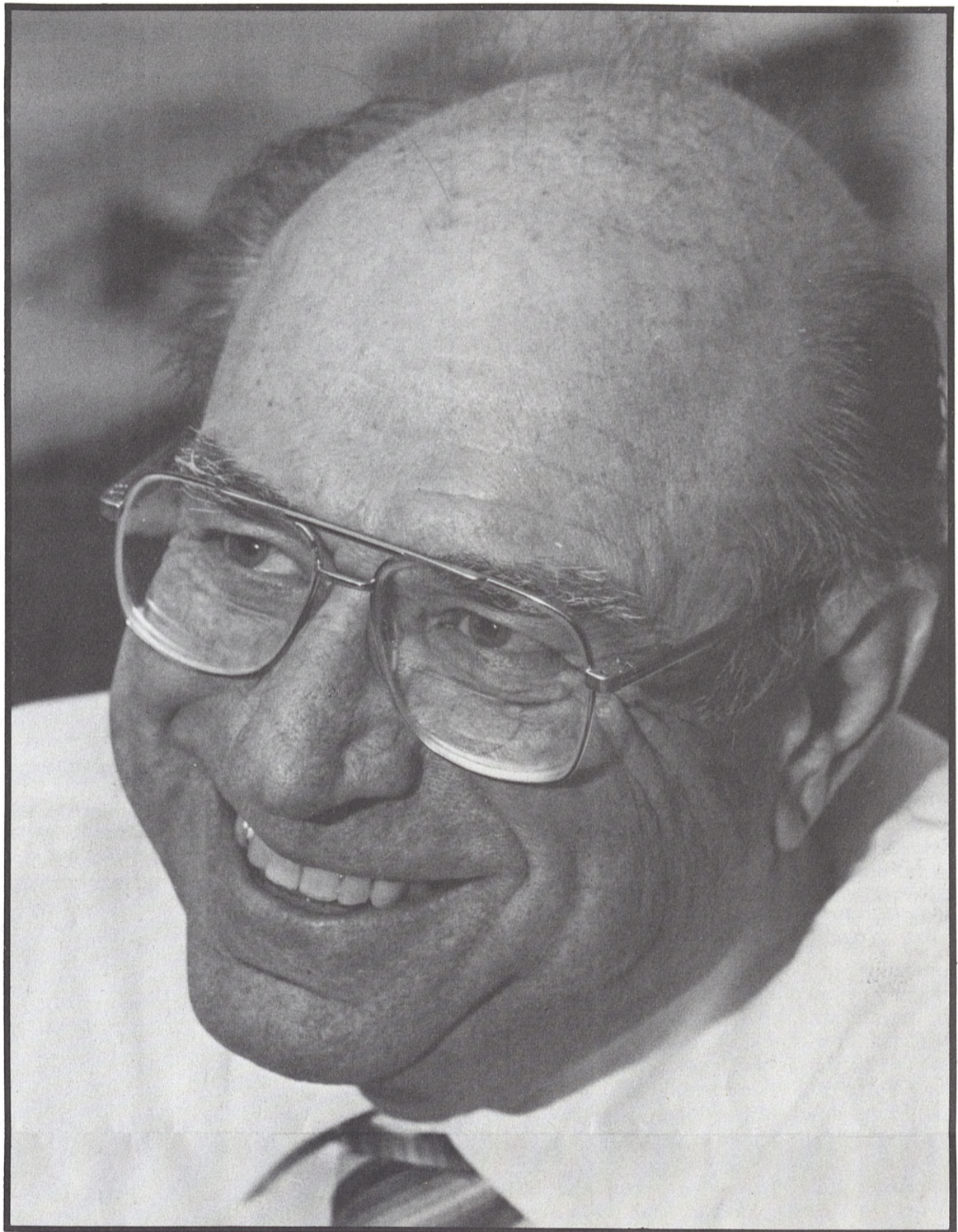
This special edition was produced by the Travel and Information Division of the Texas State Department of Highways and Public Transportation, 11th and Brazos Streets, Austin, Texas 78701.

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Typesetting and printing by Equipment and Procurement Division



**R**aymond E. Stotzer Jr., engineer-director of the highway department since 1986, died Oct. 3 at his home near Seguin following a four-month battle with cancer. Stotzer's career in highway work spanned more than four decades.

"We are very saddened by the loss of a man who has literally devoted his life to bettering the state's highway system," said highway commission chairman Robert Dedman. "Raymond has been a true friend to every motorist in this state through his efforts to improve mobility and maintain our Texas heritage of leadership in transportation."

*Please see Stotzer, Page 2*

# Stotzer

continued from Page 1

Stotzer's leadership in transportation extended beyond Texas. He recently was elected president of the Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (WASHTO), and throughout his career served on numerous committees of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

The recipient of more than a dozen awards honoring his contributions to mobility in Texas, Stotzer was most recently recognized last spring with the Texas A&M College of Engineering Alumni Honor Award. A fiercely loyal "Aggie," he often traded jokes with engineers from what he liked to refer to as the "other" university, in Austin.

Stotzer, 64, began his career with the highway department in 1947 as a field engineer in Seguin, his hometown. He progressed steadily through the years to managing larger operations in the department's 77,000-mile system of roadways.

In 1968, he became district engineer in Pharr, leaving a lasting legacy to the area with the construction of the impressive Queen Isabella Causeway. At 12,510 feet, it is the longest bridge in Texas and links the South Texas agricultural and ranching region with the popular coastal recreation area.

In 1974, Stotzer began managing district operations in San Antonio, where he tackled major freeway projects in the city's congested downtown area, upgrading the existing roadways to accommodate the increase in traffic. While there, he pioneered a mechanism to save millions of tax dollars through acquiring donated right-of-way for roadway projects.

He was instrumental in negotiating a 10-mile donation of right-of-way for the city's Westside Freeway, which serves the Sea World of Texas complex and biomedical facilities located nearby. His efforts saved taxpayers an estimated \$26 million in land costs and nearly \$6 million in construction expenses. Because the land-acquisition process was accelerated, the roadway was in operation within three years, a record for a project that size.

As engineer-director of the agency, Stotzer managed a \$2.5 billion-a-year operation that employs 15,500 people throughout the state. A primary focus during his executive years was to enhance mobility in urban areas through funding improvements to city streets and road arteries. The half-billion-dollar Principal Arterial Street System program, as it is known, is designed to do for cities what the farm-to-market program did for rural areas.

He promoted some changes within the department that made for smoother, more unified efforts and enhanced mutual respect within the department. Taking a tactic that had worked for him in the San Antonio area, he encouraged the combination of construction and maintenance activities within residencies.

He expressed deep respect for maintenance workers, and fostered the department's first safe-driving awards ceremony while heading the Pharr District.

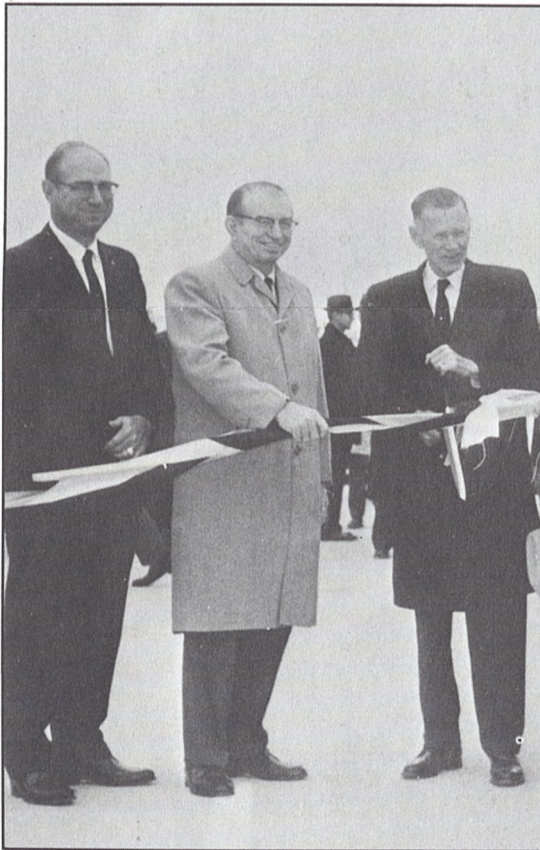
Stotzer frequently expressed pride in the department's research program and its success in decreasing highway fatalities despite increasing traffic volumes.

Another pet project for Stotzer was addressing the education and professional development of young engineers in the highway department.

"We lost more than 28,000 years of en-



Engineer-Director Raymond Stotzer accepts the Texas A&M University College of Engineering's Alumni Honor Award from Dr. Herbert Richardson, dean and deputy chancellor for engineering. (Photo courtesy of Texas A&M University)



Then-Resident Engineer Raymond Stotzer is joined by State Highway Engineer Dewitt C. Greer, right, and San Antonio District Engineer R.O. Lytton, center, to open a new roadway in the Guadalupe/Comal residency. Stotzer succeeded Lytton in 1974, and ascended to Greer's old post in 1986.

gineering expertise when nearly 1,000 employees took advantage of an early retirement option the state offered in 1986 and 1987," said highway commission chairman Robert Dedman. "Raymond created several programs to educate young engineers and prepare them for new responsibilities. The most significant of these is a design training program like none other in the nation."

Stotzer's efforts in continuing education led to the department's receiving the Texas Society for Professional Engineers' Professional Development Award this year.

Among the many awards Stotzer received

were the Award for Leadership and Dedication to Planning for Future Transportation Needs, from the City of San Antonio and Bexar County; the Service To People Award, from the Texas Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers; Engineer of the Year, from the Bexar County Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers; Citizen of the Year, from the North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce; the Luther DeBerry Award for outstanding contributions to transportation in the state of Texas, from Texas A&M University; the Rebuilding America Award from the CIT Corporation; and numerous awards of appreciation from local communities and governments.

"Raymond Stotzer was a unique combination of brilliance, dedication, and humanitarianism," said Dedman.

His dedication to the "highway family" extended to funeral arrangements. Pallbearers in the Oct. 4 services included Deputy Director Roger Welsch and district engineers Lawrence Jester of Atlanta and G.G. Garcia of Pharr. Deputy Engineer-Director Byron Blaschke, Deputy Director Al Castello, and Highway Design Division Director Frank Holzmann took part in the liturgy at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in New Braunfels, and Blaschke also delivered the eulogy. Honorary pallbearers included former engineer-directors Luther DeBerry and Mark Goode; Dr. Charles Wootan, head of A&M's Texas Transportation Institute; Dr. Frank McCullough, head of the Center for Transportation Research at the University of Texas; deputy directors Henry Thomason and Marcus Yancey; and district engineers Milton Dietert of Houston, Bill Garbade of Austin, and Nino Gutierrez of Corpus Christi.

Stotzer is survived by his wife, Mary Ann; a daughter, Susan Keller; his father, Raymond, and stepmother, Donna; and three grandchildren, Michelle, Nicole, and Christopher, who called their grandfather "Aggie."

In recognition of his lifelong commitment to his university, a scholarship fund in Stotzer's name has been established at Texas A&M University. Donations may be sent to the Raymond E. Stotzer Jr. A&M Scholarship Fund, TAMU Development Foundation, P.O. Box J-7, College Station, Texas 77844. ★**Marcy Goodfleisch**

# Stotzer saw department as mission in life

A clergyman friend of the Stotzers' has said, "Raymond is a man with his priorities in order: God, family, and then either the highway department or Texas A&M University. I'm not sure which."

This sense of order allowed Stotzer to be very clear about his life, to purposefully strive toward his goals, and to commit himself fully to every task set before him.

In March 1988, when he was interviewed for *Transportation News*, Stotzer said he had never imagined that he'd wind up engineer-director. "In my 40 years with the department, I've enjoyed every assignment that I've had and I haven't worried about the next assignment. I've just tried to get on with what I'm doing," he said.

"I was a very happy resident engineer and enjoyed two great assignments as district engineer, and the idea of moving to another assignment was never a concern to me — I was happy with what I was doing."

His joy in his work and pride in the people of the highway department were evident. "I think we have many outstanding people all around the state. The great thing about this department is that we have so many assignments with large responsibilities, great opportunities for growth," he said, adding that many people give 100 percent, or even 110 percent, to their work.

While Stotzer gave his all to bettering the state's highway system, it was to the people who travel those roads that he truly devoted himself.

His work with the department was a vocation, a satisfying mission in life.

"To see your fellow man traveling safely and economically to work, church, school, recreation, or wherever, on a modern highway that you were involved in, is a great

feeling. I often think our highway department employees fall just one notch below priests, ministers, and doctors in serving their fellow man," he said last April while accepting Texas A&M University's College of Engineering Alumni Honor Award.

Stotzer often acknowledged the importance of his alma mater in his life. He credited his "fine, tough" professors who taught him practical approaches to engineering problems. When he took his first course in highway engineering, the professor made it "come alive," he recalled. "Because of that particular course, I changed my choice of careers from one with an oil company . . . to the Texas Highway Department — and ultimately to the position I now hold."

He also valued his experience as a member of the Corps of Cadets at A&M. "The lessons learned in . . . perseverance, determination, and stubborn grit that made me hang in there have helped me through many difficult days in all the years to follow," he said.

Loyalty to his beloved university inspired the Aggie leader to sport a maroon jacket at Short Course each year, and to tease alumni from the "other" university (the University of Texas at Austin). One of the traditional opportunities for trading gibes was the annual Thanksgiving Day football contest between the rivals. A colorful post behind the Dewitt C. Greer Building in Austin that tells the outcome of the competition has stayed maroon and white for several years now.

"That's probably the poorest-maintained item we've got on our state system," Stotzer once noted. "We're not getting that painted as regularly as we should. There are some people who like to see the chips — you've got to go through many levels of paint to see

the orange paint."

Stotzer's humor, his tireless faith in his creator, his devotion to his family and to his principles earned him the respect and admiration of his peers and made him a treasured friend. He has been called a true friend to every motorist in the state.

His effect on the lives of millions of people was profound, yet he was always humble and modest. He said that in the highway department "an individual can do very little by himself. Our goals are so large, our projects so complex, and our organization so far-reaching that any success requires a major team effort. I have been fortunate enough to surround myself with a great team of co-workers for many, many years."

His team — his "highway family" — was one of the main reasons he felt so good about his work. "Engineering in the public sector is a great way to spend a career. I've had numerous opportunities to go into the private sector and make more money — but I've always enjoyed what I was doing and the great team of people I was working with far too much."

His loyalty to that team is unquestioned. When he became engineer-director, he stated as his personal goal "to do my dead-level best to ensure that we have the proper working climate for the greatest group of people around."

Even during his last days, Stotzer had a message for his "highway family." When Byron Blaschke, deputy engineer-director, called him on Sept. 30 and told him everyone had been asking how he was, Stotzer answered:

"Tell them not to be concerned — and to get back to work."

★Karen LeFevre

## Eulogy delivered by Byron C. Blaschke

"Among Raymond's major loves were God, his family, Texas A&M, and the Texas highway department.

"Of these loves, that of the highway department probably has affected the most people, as well as the whole state of Texas. His 40-plus years of dedicated service to the state has had a very significant impact on the highway system in Texas. These years reflect his sincere interest in fairness, high ethical standards, insistence on high-quality products, his desire for service to the public, as well as his outstanding engineering and leadership abilities. Raymond's special emphasis on proper and sound stewardship of the public funds has been a hallmark of his career.

"But Raymond's influence on transportation was not confined to the state of Texas. His impact on national interests was also very significant. His legacy is

unquestionably marked by the many highways, bridges, and interchanges which were developed under his guidance and engineering expertise. This legacy also includes the numerous results of his outstanding management skills.

"But perhaps his greatest legacy will be the many people both inside and outside our department whose lives and careers have been so positively influenced by Raymond's guidance, motivation, management, and philosophies. These legacies, the product of his love, caring, and sincere dedication, will long serve the people of Texas.

"We know that the highways of heaven will soon be much straighter and smoother.

"We extend to Mary Ann and Susan and all the other members of Raymond's family the sympathies of the entire highway family."

## Raymond Stotzer, the engineer...

"He was a very dedicated gentleman; dedicated to his family and dedicated to the highway department. He was also an excellent engineer and an excellent administrator. And he had very high standards, both for his life and for his job. He expected his employees, those who worked with him, to always give full measure. And he always did the same, plus a little more."

**Luther DeBerry,**  
*former Engineer-Director*

"If we ever needed anything done, we always leaned toward Raymond; we could count on him. Every one of the jobs he took on, he always did an outstanding job. . . . Raymond really kept the department as tops in all his relationships with it and was especially interested in the people. He also was a team worker, and took on some of the tougher jobs and did them well. You could count on Raymond for whatever job you needed done."

**Mark G. Goode, former  
Engineer-Director**

"Raymond was a builder. Everyone who knew him knew he built highways and bridges; however, I also knew and admired him as a builder of people. He dedicated himself to developing individuals who wanted to improve themselves. Whether it was through the department's professional development programs or our training programs, summer 'scholarship' jobs for students, or on-the-job training, he was a positive voice for the development of all our people. He understood that the success of any program rests within the individuals who design, implement, and act in it."

**Henry Thomason,**  
*Deputy Director for Field  
Operations*

"Mr. Stotzer was a fine and energetic leader and an exciting person to work for. He was always gung-ho, full steam ahead. One time he came down to my residency, which included McMullen County, for one of his whirlwind tours. The RE was always hard-pressed to keep notes on what he wanted. We drove down that short portion of US 59 that crosses through McMullen County, and we crossed a narrow bridge. Raymond said to get an estimate on widening it. A little further down, we crossed another narrow bridge, and he asked me to do an estimate on that one, too. I told him we'd crossed into District 16 a mile or so back. He said, "Do an estimate anyway and I'll send it over to them."

**Fred Hilgers,**  
*Assistant District Engineer and  
Construction Engineer,  
San Antonio District*

"Under Mr. Stotzer's valuable leadership, our harried big-city drivers will not wind up in as many long queues. They may not realize, as they find it easier to get around, who is responsible for the improvement in their daily lives. But we who serve in state government will."

**Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby,**  
*in a letter recommending  
Stotzer for an award*



"When Mr. Stotzer was first appointed, I had a little bit of apprehension because he was bigger than life, and so many people had said so much about how he worked so hard. But I found out he was such a warm person and made everyone feel so special, like they were a part of everything."

"He called me 'Rae 1,' meaning the other Rays were himself and (commissioner) Ray Stoker. That was really special."

**Rae Barho,**  
*Administrative Assistant to  
Deputy Engineer-Director  
Byron Blaschke*

"The question most often asked of me, when I was being asked to come on the commission, was whether I could fairly balance the competing interests of rural and urban districts. Sen. John Traeger said, 'If you want to see a guy who fairly balances rural and urban interests, I'd like you to meet Raymond Stotzer.' I went to San Antonio and met Raymond. We drove all around the district, and I left thinking this guy was the next potential chief executive officer. . . ."

"I attended a farewell event for him when he left San Antonio. I was impressed that everyone there felt a genuine sense of loss. He seemed to leave an impression wherever he went."

**Robert C. Lanier,**  
*Former Highway Commission  
Chairman*

"Whether it was engineering or management, Raymond had a knack for recognizing the problem, identifying the alternatives, and quickly choosing the right solution. He was awesome."

**Roger Welsch, Deputy Director  
for Design and Construction**

"Raymond Stotzer has left an enviable record behind him, which includes a strengthened Texas and American transportation system and high technical and ethical standards for the rest of us to live up to. In short, Ray Stotzer's life made a difference."

**Frank B. Francois, Executive  
Director, American  
Association of State Highway  
and Transportation Officials**

"He had a good sense of humor. The biggest joke we had together was that anytime we could find something in his office, it was his good filing system. If we couldn't find it, then it was my filing system."

"I'd like to tell people, if they didn't know him, what a fine person he was."

**La Verne Dillashaw,**  
*Secretary to Raymond Stotzer  
while he was DE in San Antonio*

"I remember it was an honor (to have her photo taken with Stotzer as the newest district employee). We had a celebration in the coffeeshop in honor of his visit, and people came and went as they could. He made everyone feel like he really did care. It meant a lot that he wanted to meet everybody and see what we do."

**Laura Beth Gibbs,**  
*San Angelo District  
accounting office*

## ...the Aggie...



"I'll never forget his comment when we were up on the roof of the Greer Building shooting a photo for *Transportation News*. Mr. Stotzer was quite gracious about being up there on the roof but he just had one request: 'Isn't there some way you can get Kyle Field in the background?'"

**Geoff Appold,**  
*Manager, Audiovisual Branch*  
*Travel and Information Division*

"I had a special relationship with him and will miss him very much.

"He was very kind, caring, down-to-earth, and personable. He was a hard worker, but he liked to have fun. Of course, we teased a lot about our universities. I get here in the morning before anyone, and he'd usually enter the door with his thumb up and say 'Gig 'em.'"

**Bobby Adcock,**  
*Chief Minute Clerk*

"On Mondays after the Aggies would win, I'd usually get a call from Raymond. Only it would sound like a business call, his secretary would say 'would you hold for Mr. Stotzer, please,' then when she put the call through, all I could hear would be the Aggie war hymn turned up real loud on the gramophone."

**Frank Holzmann,**  
*Chief Engineer, Highway Design*

"My boss was a good leader who inspired other people with confidence in him, and a great leader who inspired them with confidence in themselves. He did just that, but not only was he a great leader — he was a compassionate and very caring and loving man. I will truly miss him and his royal Aggie spirit."

**Ruth Cox,**  
*Secretary to "RES"*

"I got to know Mr. Stotzer on the phone when he was DE in San Antonio. I had gotten information for him and written a few speeches. 'At Short Course one year when my daughter, Sally, was a student at A&M, she and I were talking during one of the breaks. Mr. Stotzer walked over and I introduced them. He asked, 'Your daughter is a student here at A&M?'" 'Yes, sir.' 'Well, Hilton, I have new respect for you!'"

**Hilton Hagan, Human Resources**  
*Division, former editor of*  
*Transportation News*

## ...the leader...

"With the death of Raymond Stotzer, Texas has lost a fine citizen and a dedicated public servant. I join his family, friends, and his colleagues at the highway department in mourning his passing. After more than 40 years with the highway department, his leadership and expertise will not soon be forgotten. Texans today and for years to come will reap the benefits of his engineering talents."

**Gov. Bill Clements**

"He had a habit of visiting with the 'average' employee as he traveled around the state. To him, the highway department was a family, and he would drop in at a local maintenance office, or stop to visit with workers on the roadside. This was the way he kept in touch and let people know they were appreciated."

**Byron Blaschke,**  
*Deputy Engineer-Director*

"Raymond was a very positive person, and he had a good sense of humor. I remember one time we had a disagreement over a project on I-35 north of San Antonio. He wanted to maintain traffic on the frontage roads, and I told him I wouldn't approve it unless he maintained traffic in place, two lanes both ways, non-stop. And that's the way it was done. But to show how big a man he was, he publicly acknowledged, in a national meeting, that we (the Federal Highway Administration) were right. A lot of people wouldn't have done that."

**John Conrado,**  
*former FHWA Administrator,*  
*Texas Division*

"Raymond really served as my mentor. He taught me, explained things to me, and took a lot of time making sure I was up on issues being addressed in the Legislature. I saw an enormous amount of strength in Raymond as an individual. He was a man of great spiritual consciousness and commitment."

**Wayne B. Duddleston,**  
*Highway*  
*Commission Member*

"Raymond was an innovator who was never satisfied with a 'That's the way we've always done it' attitude. He continuously challenged all of us to find a better way of serving our state. He had tremendous confidence in people as evidenced by the number of people he helped move to positions of greater responsibility. The fact that he had that kind of confidence in us motivated us to the utmost so we would never bring embarrassment to him for his choice or recommendation. He brought out the best in people to a greater degree than anyone I have ever known."

**G.G. Garcia,**  
*District Engineer, Pharr*

"Raymond demanded 100 percent of those who worked under him, but he gave 150 percent himself. The thing I appreciate most about Raymond was that in addition to getting the work done and developing the highways, he took such a keen interest in developing people. That was one of his great contributions, and it was certainly true in my case."

**Richard Lockhart,**  
*District Engineer, San Antonio*

## ...the leader...

"The main thing Raymond gave to the department was a true leadership. He was a man of deep convictions and a strong personality, and a really deep love for the highway department. That combination allowed him to provide unique leadership during the years he has been with the department and through the many roles he has served for the department. That leadership is something that will be sorely missed. From the standpoint of research he provided a great incentive to us, in that he thought that first-class research was essential to the department. And he worked hard to see that this was brought about, took a personal leadership role in bringing it about. He is a man who will be sorely missed, I'll sure say that."

**Dr. Charles Wootan,**  
Director, Texas Transportation  
Institute, Texas A&M University

"Raymond was a man of action, based on firm beliefs. He was very tough in questioning your beliefs, but once he was convinced you were firm in your ideas, he would support you and go along with you 100 percent. He made a lot of great contributions to the department, and one of them that's just coming into play right now is sending employees back to school to get their master's degrees. I approached him on that and finally he agreed and said, 'Let's do it.' He worked me over a little, but once he agreed to it, he did it."

**Dr. B. Frank McCullough,**  
Director, Center for  
Transportation Research,  
University of Texas

"He was a great man to work with and work for, a hard worker, with a tremendous sense of professionalism and responsibility to the people he worked with, to the department, to the people of Texas. As former president of the San Antonio Branch of the Texas Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, he stood foursquare on people serving their profession, which meant serving our whole society.

"You never had to guess what he had on his mind or what he wanted you to do. He really had a wonderful work ethic. He was also a rather committed Aggie, as I recollect.

"It's a terrible loss to the department and to the state."

**Malcolm Steinberg,**  
District Design Engineer,  
El Paso

"If you had to sum him up in one word, and you weren't allowed to use any other, it would be leadership. There wasn't anything he couldn't cope with."

**Frank Holzmann,**  
Chief Engineer, Highway Design

"Raymond was an uncommon man, with a common touch. He had the same respect and regard for maintenance people as he did for commissioners."

**Ray Stoker,**  
Highway Commission Member



"I will always hear the Aggie War Hymn being played on his old-time record player. He'd play it for anybody, from the highest-ranking state officials to the stranger off the street — and at top volume. If you were blue or just in a depressed mood, that sense of humor came through and made you forget why you were depressed."

**Ruth Cox,**  
Secretary to "RES"

"I saw Mr. Stotzer as an encouragement to everybody. No matter what your job, he encouraged you. When he came here as district engineer, I had two Aggie daughters, and no one was happier than he was when one won a big scholarship.

"In the mornings, Mr. Stotzer would come to my office and read the paper. He read the comics and the sports, and then he'd get down to business."

**Margaret Richards,**  
Administrative Assistant,  
San Antonio District

"He has left a legacy that will be hard to match. He was dedicated to this department. He built his life around it. Working for him, he expected more out of you than you thought you were capable of accomplishing, but you were able to accomplish it. He had a better idea of people's abilities than they had themselves. He could recognize potential. He was tough, but fair."

**Milton Dietert,**  
District Engineer, Houston

"Mr. Stotzer hired me — in fact, he hired me twice. I left the department one time to try agriculture, and when that didn't work out Mr. Stotzer hired me back. Lots of times he had more confidence in me than I had in myself. Where I've gotten in this department I owe in large part to him. It's a great loss, especially to all of us who worked with him for so many years before he went to Pharr. He's one of the greatest persons who ever lived."

**Ferman Wetz,**  
Engineering Specialist,  
New Braunfels Residency

"Raymond had a great concern and interest in the people of the department, particularly at the lower levels. He was a bear for training and for morale building. He wanted to see people come up through the system, through growth and educational improvement."

**Wayne B. Duddleston,** Highway  
Commission Member

## ...the 'family' man



"We started down the road of married life 44 years ago so young, with so much to learn together. We were blessed, learning to live by the peace prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, and the last line of that prayer is, 'It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.'"

### Mary Ann Stotzer

"Before I received the Gibb Gilchrist award, he came back to the design section and said, 'Frank, I want all your folks to go to Short Course. I know I usually don't like to take that many, but I think I want to this year.' Then, during the opening session, he had us all sit together; he said he wanted the whole team together. When the time came for them to announce the awards, they started talking about this year's winner coming from an urban district, and then they mentioned the Fratt Interchange. Just about that time I got a little suspicious, and this big hand reached over and shook mine, and he said, 'Congratulations, Frank.'"

**Frank Holzmann,**  
Chief Engineer, Highway Design

"When he was here (in the fall of 1987), it was the first time I met the gentleman.

"What impressed us in the shop area, he came around and introduced himself to everybody here and talked to them. . . . That really impressed everybody up here, that he took time to stop and talk to everybody individually. That's always stuck in my mind."

**Don Jones,**  
Truck driver, Wichita Falls  
District

On the department's executive biography worksheets, blanks are left for "The three most significant experiences" in the executive's life. On Raymond Stotzer's worksheet, the word "three" is X'd out, and the only item listed is "Marrying Mary Ann."

"I've known Raymond since the early '50s. He was always very fair and easy to work with, and a real fine Christian man. I say that because I've been around lots of men, and he's one of the few that I have never heard use foul language, or appreciate even off-color jokes. He's been a credit to that type of living. The people of Texas have lost a good friend."

**Walter Collier,**  
Maintenance Engineer,  
San Antonio District

"My biggest disappointment is that many of the young and newer employees will never be able to know or experience his fine leadership and management capabilities, as well as his many other fine qualities. He certainly deserved all the respect that was given to him."

**Myrna Klipple,**  
Secretary to the highway  
commission

"Just after I started with the department I was working in the Capitol Tourist Bureau. Don Clark (Travel and Information Division director) came in one day and introduced me to Mr. Stotzer. I hadn't even been here long enough to know who he was. A couple of weeks later, Mr. Stotzer came in to visit with a legislator. I smiled and said hello, trying to remember exactly who he was. He smiled back and said, 'How are you doing, Roger?' He remembered my name. I never forgot that. When I hear people talk about how he always cared for 'the little people' I think about it. I'm a believer."

**Roger Polson,**  
Public Information Officer,  
Travel and Information Division

"The thing that I appreciated most as his secretary was that, although he was the busiest man I've ever known, he always had time to see or visit with anyone who came in. . . . no matter if it was a governor or a little lady with a pothole. . . . I knew that I would never be asked to do anything that was not ethical or totally honest and above-board. He was a daily inspiration to me. I feel so blessed to have had the opportunity to know and work with Mr. Stotzer for five years. I will always be grateful for the privilege."

**Bette Arnold, Pharr District**  
Was secretary to Stotzer as DE

"By the end of August, Mr. Stotzer was noticeably weakened from his illness, but he participated in what was to be his last commission meeting.

"During the meeting, I had to deliver some information to Mr. (Henry) Thomason, who was seated at the commission table. When Mr. Stotzer saw me, he asked, 'How is your grandson?' Both of our grandsons had been involved in serious accidents — his in a fall and mine had been hit by a truck.

"The sincere interest and compassion he demonstrated during a meeting on serious highway business, at a time when he was facing such severe personal problems and an uncertain future, are evidence of the depths of the concern he had for all department personnel. We have all lost a good friend as well as a great leader."

**Russell Cummings,**  
Aide to Deputy Director  
Henry Thomason

"Raymond was a man of the highest integrity and he worked to ensure that the department maintained the highest standards. His motto was, 'The department should be as clean as a hound's tooth.' For those of us who were privileged to work with him, his leadership, sincerity, and commitment to the department's employees quickly became apparent. He and Mary Ann are loyal friends of the highway family and will always be remembered and loved for all their contributions to the department, its employees, and the people of Texas."

**Al Castello, Deputy Director for  
Support Operations**



# MILESTONES

## Raymond E. Stotzer Jr.

- 1925** Born in Seguin August 26
- 1942** Graduated from Seguin High School
- 1944** Entered Navy as apprentice seaman
- 1946** Discharged as petty officer second class
- 1947** Received bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Texas A&M University  
Started work with the highway department as a field engineer in Seguin
- 1951** Registered as a professional engineer
- 1952** Became resident engineer in Medina County
- 1953** Became senior resident engineer in Comal County
- 1959** Became supervising resident engineer in charge of Comal and Guadalupe residencies
- 1968** Appointed district engineer in Pharr
- 1974** Queen Isabella Causeway, constructed under Stotzer's supervision, dedicated  
Appointed district engineer in San Antonio
- 1980** San Antonio's McAllister Freeway (US 281) selected as finalist in two national competitions
- 1983** San Antonio's Fratt Interchange (Interstate 35 and I-410) opened
- 1985** Received Luther DeBerry Award from Texas A&M in recognition of outstanding contributions to Texas in transportation
- 1986** Appointed engineer-director
- 1989** Received Texas A&M College of Engineering Alumni Honor Award, April  
Elected president of the Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, July

### In his own words...

"I hope you are as proud as I am to say, 'I work for the highway department.'"

These words appeared in Raymond E. Stotzer Jr.'s *Transportation News* column in November 1986, just a few months after he assumed the department's top position. A journey through his messages reveals something of the man.

\* \* \*

"I have a goal for this department and I hope each of you share it with me: I would like for the transportation systems of Texas to be the acknowledged best in the world. (October 1986)

\* \* \*

"(Mr. Dewitt Greer) was more than just the boss. He was a model for all the young engineers who came eagerly to work here. He set the standards . . . and they were high standards too." (December 1986)

\* \* \*

"One of the things that has made me most proud to be associated with this department is our consistent excellence in making new technological strides.

"Many of our innovations and solutions have been adopted by departments nationwide. We can indeed be proud to serve millions of motorists 'the Texas way.'" (March 1987)

\* \* \*

"Singly, each profession makes a valuable contribution to the success of the whole department. But together, they create an organization in which all Texans can take great pride." (June 1987)

\* \* \*

"My pride in being a part of this organization has never been higher. The opportunity to join with the greatest group of public employees around in serving our fellow Texans is an honor." (November 1988)

\* \* \*

"Needless to repeat — but I will — thank you all from the bottom of my heart. Your kind thoughts and most of all, your prayers, have sustained us in these tough times.

"What a great group of people to work with!" (July 1989)