



Proclamation

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF COMAL §
CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS §

WHEREAS, Ray Still, Linda Dietert and Bill Morton have been named Living Legends of New Braunfels by the Braunfels Foundation Trust; and

WHEREAS, Ray Still was born in Houston to Ross Still, a World War II veteran who worked for the railroad, and his mother Nedra who stayed home to raise her six children. Ray graduated from Broadway Baptist School where he played basketball and was also the team captain. Shortly after graduation, Ray married Sandra Pullen and enrolled at San Jacinto Junior College. Ray worked a part time job at the upscale Adam's Mark Hotel. A few years later while taking classes at the University of Houston, Ray became an Assistant Pastor and then went on to become a Senior Pastor at Broadway Baptist Church. One day, Ray received a phone call for an interview from Oakwood Baptist Church. He was not initially inclined to interview for the job at Oakwood. Ray was happy at Broadway Baptist Church with both his and Sandra's families living in Houston. The idea of moving to New Braunfels to a new church didn't seem like the right move. However, Ray did agree to come to New Braunfels and interview with Oakwood Baptist Church and that is when Bill Morton shared his vision of what Oakwood could be that moved Ray to take the job and move to New Braunfels. In the nearly 30 years that Pastor Ray has been at Oakwood, the Church has grown in both congregants and in outreach. Pastor Ray has also established a counseling center that handles over 3,000 sessions a year. Pastor Ray has been a Trustee on the McKenna Hospital Board and was a founding member of the McKenna Foundation Trust. He has also served on the following boards: Christus Santa Rosa Systems, Howard Payne University, New Braunfels Christian Ministries, and Houston Baptist University and is currently sitting on the Bond Advisory Committee. In 2018, Pastor Ray was awarded the Chamber's Chair of the Board Award and in 2020, Pastor Ray was announced the winner of the Besserung Award. Pastor Ray and Sandra have one son, Mitchell, and one daughter-in-law, Alicia.

WHEREAS Linda Dietert is a fifth generation New Braunfels native. In 1968, while teaching lessons in the Jaycees' summer swimming programs, Linda met Mike Dietert who would become her husband several years later. Linda graduated from New Braunfels High School in 1968, then went on to attend Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education in 1972. She then began teaching at Goodwin Elementary but left once her son Brandon was born. Linda later took a job as Executive Director of the Sophienburg Museum and Archives where she was the director of the museum twice in her career. Linda later taught at First Protestant Preschool for several years and was even the preschool's director. Linda was also involved with the Children's Museum of New Braunfels where she worked on programming and exhibits, and even served as the Museum's director. In 1979, Linda's daughter Allison was born, and as Allison and her brother Brandon grew, Linda became involved with their schools serving as president of Seele Elementary, New Braunfels Junior High, City Council PTA, as well as Unicorn Band Booster President. Linda was a three-year president of the New Braunfels Conservation Society where she was key to Comal Independent School District donating the 1870 Church Hill School to the Conservation Society. Linda is a founding member of the Heritage Society, and docent at the Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture. Linda served on the first New Braunfels Historic Landmark Commission in 1970 and served again in 2008. Linda has also volunteered on the Downtown Development Board, the Downtown Design Review Committee, and even served as Comal County Aggie Moms President. Linda currently serves on the Comal County Historical Commission and is a 50-year member of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority and a member of First Protestant Church. Linda continues to tell stories of New Braunfels and our great State of Texas for the generations to come.

WHEREAS, Bill Morton was born on Sand Mountain in Boaz, Alabama in 1932. When Bill was in school, he played basketball and was even class president. After graduating, he went off to Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama where he enrolled in the ROTC program while completing his Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration. During this time, Bill married his high school sweetheart Nell Goss and began a two-year Army commitment starting at Fort Sill and ending in Germany where he specialized in Field Artillery. Once Bill returned to the civilian life, he and Nell settled in Lindell, Georgia. Bill began working at a local textile mill while also earning his second degree from Auburn in Engineering. In 1972, Bill and Nell, son Mark, and daughter Stacey, moved to New Braunfels where Bill assumed the responsibility as the Chief Executive Officer and President of Mission Valley Textile Mills. Bill has had many other contributions to this community to include serving a six-year period on the board of McKenna Hospital and was even the hospital's acting Chief Executive Officer. Bill helped negotiate the sell of McKenna Hospital to Christus Santa Rosa and establish the McKenna Foundation Trust. During this time, Bill and others in the community volunteered to begin a new church in New Braunfels called Oakwood Baptist Church. Bill served as deacon and is still active at Oakwood. Bill has also served on the 1995 Sesquicentennial Steering Committee, the Brauntex Theatre Board, was President of the Comal County United Way, past Chairman and Board Director of the New Braunfels Manufacturer's Association, and as Vice President of the New Braunfels Infrastructure Improvement Corporation. In 2003, the Greater New Braunfels Chambers of Commerce named Bill to the Hall of Honor for his community involvement. After the death of Nell in 2014, Bill began a new chapter of his life with his marriage to Jan Kotylo.

WHEREAS the Braunfels Foundation Trust will honor these Living Legends at a luncheon at the McKenna Events Center on October 3, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, HARRY BOWERS, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor Pro Tem of the City of New Braunfels, do hereby proclaim Ray Still, Linda Dietert and Bill Morton as

LIVING LEGENDS OF NEW BRAUNFELS

and urge all citizens to join the Braunfels Foundation Trust in honoring New Braunfels' Living Legends.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of New Braunfels to be affixed this the 26th day of September 2022.

CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS

BY: _____
HARRY BOWERS, Mayor Pro Tem