

*Anne L. Leatherman, TX
1978-1980 & 1980-1983
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Anne Lois Leatherman of Texas was a leader in the human care licensing field. She served as president of what was then known as the Association for Regulatory Administration (ARA), a precursor of NARA, from 1978-80 and on a carry-over basis from 1980-83 when the association went into a period of inactivity. She succeeded fellow NARA Founder Margaret Delaney Miller (VA), who had been appointed by the founders as the association's first president in 1976. Anne served as secretary-treasurer of ARA in 1976 before becoming the first president to be elected by ARA's governing board in 1978. Anne helped plan the first national human care licensing conference in San Antonio.

Leatherman enrolled in Mary Hardin-Baylor College in Belton, TX, which was then the oldest college for women west of the Mississippi, and later transferred to the University of Texas at Austin, graduating with a B.S. in Education in 1939. After teaching math for a couple of years, Anne joined what was then the Texas Department of Public Welfare (DPW) in 1942 as a caseworker and was promoted to supervisor in 1948. While on educational leave from the DPW, she studied social work at Tulane University and later Columbia University, graduating with an MSW from Columbia University in 1952.

Upon returning to the DPW, Leatherman worked as supervisor of the El Paso Child Welfare Board from 1952 and rose through the ranks to become Director of Licensing in 1955. In 1961, she left the state agency to become Director of Social Services at the Methodist Children's Home in Waco, TX. In 1968, Leatherman returned to DPW as Director of Licensing and, in 1974, became Director of the Standards and Policy Section of the Division of Licensing, where she oversaw the development of improved child care licensing policies, procedures and regulations. Anne remained in the post until she retired in 1980, capping a distinguished public service career that spanned more than 40 years.

"When Texas enacted a new child care licensing statute, it required the drafting, publication, holding of statewide public hearings and adoption of minimum requirements for 14 different types of facilities, many of which had never been subject to regulation," said David J. Beard (TX), who later succeeded Leatherman as NARA's third president. "At the same time, the agency had to develop policies and procedures to implement those standards. As director of the Standards and Policy Section, Anne oversaw all these activities. It was a tremendous undertaking and Anne performed a yeoman's service."

Leatherman's interest in human care regulation was kindled while attending summer licensing work-shops at Tulane University in the early 1970s. The workshops were led by NARA Founder Norris E. Class (KS), who is generally regarded as the "father" of human care licensing in America.

Class was assisted by Miller, three other NARA founders-Edna Hughes (TN), Gwen Morgan (MA) and Lela B. Costin (IL)-as well as Beard and the Rev. Rolland C. Gerhart, Jr. (VT). All except Morgan and Beard are deceased. The idea for a national association of human care regulators grew out of discussions among

members of this small cadre of licensing professionals, including Anne and a few others who attended the Tulane workshops. It led to the creation in 1976 of the association now known as NARA.

Although extremely shy and retiring by nature, Leatherman surprised her family and friends by making a movie while working in Beaumont. The movie, entitled "A Day in the Life of a Social Worker," was used as a training tool throughout the State. For her efforts, Anne became known as "Ms. Licensing" in the State of Texas. At her retirement dinner, the State Human Services Commissioner said Leatherman "did more than anyone to help children in Texas."

Anne was a member of the National Association of Social Workers, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the American Public Welfare Association and the Texas Public Employees Association. She also was an aspiring artist who enjoyed painting for her family and friends. Anne worked in all media-oil, watercolor, chalk and acrylic. Leatherman was a Deaconess of Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church in Austin.

Leatherman was born on September 21, 1917, in Bartlett, TX, to Gus Tavus and Minnie Lee Mills Leatherman. She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Glen and Delma; sisters Beulah and Karen; and a nephew, Benny Wilson. Anne leaves her sister, Ruth Walker; nieces, Camille Heinemann, Karin Ascue, Karolin Turner and Linda Kay Leatherman; her nephew, Ronnie Leatherman; and great-niece, Cary Turner; several great-great-nieces; and her longtime friend and caretaker, Elizabeth Snapp of Denton. Funeral services were held in the Cook-Walden/Forest Oaks Funeral Home in Austin, TX on February 13, 2006, followed by interment in Cook-Walden/Forest Oaks Cemetery.

Anne Leatherman and Elizabeth Snapp became friends in the 1990s. When Leatherman's health deteriorated in the early 2000s, Snapp first arranged home health care for her and later helped Anne sell her Austin house and move to Denton, where Snapp could better provide for her needs. Leatherman ultimately moved to an assisted living facility, where she resided until her death in Denton Regional Hospital.

"Anne lived her life with integrity and honor/' said Snapp, who served for many years as Director of Libraries and University Historian at Texas Woman's University in Denton. "She was a pioneer in her advocacy work for children at the local, state, and national levels. Very early in her life, she developed a passion for the safety and care of children, especially for those in foster care.

"Ann helped give a voice to children who otherwise would have been lost in a world that had not made a place for them. She made a commitment to love others no matter the circumstance, and to serve unselfishly until her time on earth was finished."

Snapp, who now teaches Texas women's history at Texas Woman's University, plans to deposit Leatherman's papers in the university's Woman's Collection, which was established in 1937. It is one of the largest and oldest archives of materials about women's history and issues in the nation.

Elizabeth is establishing memorial gift funds in Anne's honor at both the university and the assisted living facility where she had lived. In addition, she is preparing a biographical sketch on Leatherman for



possible publication in the Handbook of Texas. The handbook is a six-volume multidisciplinary encyclopedia of Texas history, culture, and geography first published in 1952 and completely revised in 1996.