

James E. Mitchell

James E. Mitchell was born October 13, 1935 and left the Georgetown community all too soon on September 11, 2002. He served in the United States Navy prior to founding his own business. He resided in Georgetown with his wife Janet Mitchell, son James T. Mitchell and daughter Kaitlin Mitchell.

Jim came from very humble beginnings yet became very successful as a person and in his business ventures. In the mid 90's he moved his entire company from California to Georgetown, specifically because of the "can do" spirit that prevailed. He fell in love with Georgetown, the people and students.

Jim and his family lived the American dream. He and Janet wanted to give back to the community particularly through helping the children in GISD. With education as the cornerstone, he believed in building Georgetown as a "City of Excellence" through "A Nation of Learners". The goal being that every school would promote partnerships that would increase parent involvement and participation in developing the social, emotional and academic growth of all children. Driven by this calling, Jim saw the need for help within our school district. However, he did not feel the man power nor funding could come from within the district. Jim forged ahead in an effort to help GISD develop by focusing on collaborative efforts with Robert Wood, Tim Harris and Bob Brent, the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, Southwestern University and GISD to conduct school and community assessments. The results led to the birth of Georgetown Partners in Education (PIE), which is known for the community volunteer based programs Project Mentor, Helping Hands Tutoring, Business Link, and the most recent addition, The GISD Education Foundation.

While leading this crusade and providing personal financial backing to support the education of Georgetown students through Partners in Education (PIE), he also assisted with the growth of the GISD Career & Technology Department programs. In addition, he continued to look for ways to help our community and children learn. He saw Georgetown parents' need for quality before and after school care with enrichment opportunities. With a firm conviction he proceeded to develop, personally fund and deliver the, now state modeled, Extended School Enrichment (ESE) program for Georgetown.

Jim's business background, paired with his driving desire to enhance the educational experience of Georgetown youth, helped to build partnerships that perpetuate and forever improve our community. Jim exemplified the spirit of Georgetown. He was a visionary who blended these ideals with the "roll up your sleeves and get the job done" attitude. He could always be heard saying, "We are burning daylight" and "We don't tell time by the calendar but rather the clock".

We are proud that our elementary school has the honor of bearing the James E. Mitchell name. We honor Jim and his family for their hard work and accomplishments in our community and school district. We appreciate him for his "can do" spirit that continues to build our "City of Excellence" through "A Nation of Learners". Mitchell Elementary is dedicated to carrying on his passion. His spirit and allegiance served Georgetown well, leaving a legacy for all in our community. While his presence in our town is greatly missed, his hard work and lasting impact will live on in the hearts of the students of James E. Mitchell Elementary, as well as in the hearts of all Georgetown citizens.

The following are just some of the community awards, accomplishments and recognition that Jim Mitchell received during his short 9 years of life that he shared with us in Georgetown.

Chamber of Commerce Business Leader of the Year, 1994
Georgetown Citizen of the Year, 1996
Georgetown Partners in Education Chair, 1996
Harry Gold Award of Excellence, 1997
Georgetown Volunteer of the Year Award, 1998
Georgetown Partners in Education Chair, 1998
Career & Technology Administrators of Texas Award-TEA, 1998
National McKee Foods Corp. Award for Exemplary Leadership in creating business/school, partnerships, National Partners in Education, 2000
Jim and Janet Mitchell Hall of Honor Award from Partners in Education, 2002

Co-Founder and retired CEO of Georgetown Sierra Microwave Technology Company
Co-Founder and two time Past Chair, Georgetown Partners in Education (PIE)
Founder Extended School Enrichment (ESE)
Member – Georgetown Noon Rotary Club
Member – Board of Georgetown Healthcare Foundation