



# ***METROPOLITAN HOUSTON MESSENGER***

## **Chevron Retirees Association**

### ***President's Podium***

I want to start off by thanking our members for their generous contributions to our Scholarship Fund. Since 2003, the Metro Houston Chapter has a proud history of awarding scholarships to the descendants of dues-paying chapter members. I also want to thank Keith Hall, Chair of our Scholarship Committee, and his team for their hard work in sorting through all the deserving candidates who were nominated. **Congratulations to our 2023 scholarship award winner, Adam Buchsbaum.** Adam and his parents, Billy and Laurie Buchsbaum, shown in this photo, attended our Q3 luncheon at The ION, where Adam was presented with his award. Read more about Adam on Page 4.

The Scholarship program is supported by your voluntary donations. **Please consider sending in a donation today.** You may do so online by credit card. Just look in the drop-down menu for Scholarship on our website [www.cra-metrohouston.org](http://www.cra-metrohouston.org). Of course, we will be happy to receive your check, please make sure you indicate that it is for Scholarship.



Our Program and Event Committees continue to generate educational sessions and social opportunities for our members to get together. **I am excited to announce the following upcoming activities that are highlighted in this Newsletter:**

- We are soliciting interest in attending a couple of Houston Texans Football games at NRG Stadium!
- We will hold a Zoom session in November to review discounts that are available to Chevron retirees.
- Plans are firming up to make our annual Holiday Event bigger and better than ever!

**I would like to thank Ronald Leschak for volunteering to be our new Treasurer. In addition, Mridul Kumar has also stepped up to be our Assistant Treasurer.** Our Acting Treasurer, Frank Coe, will be working with Ronald and Mridul over the next few months to ensure a smooth transition. Finally, **Dennis Parker will become our new Communications Committee Chair, taking the reins from Frank Coe.** These are just some of the many member volunteers that keep our chapter running and for whom we are thankful! If you have some spare time, and would like to help your chapter, please see the **Help Wanted!** article on Page 8.

**If your email cover note or your printed last page indicate your dues are DUE, PLEASE seriously consider catching up.** The dues are quite small and are essential for the chapter to plan and support the programs you like.

If you have feedback on this Newsletter, or suggestions for how we can improve, just email us at [Membership@cra-metrohouston.org](mailto:Membership@cra-metrohouston.org). You can also e-mail me at [batb2725@gmail.com](mailto:batb2725@gmail.com) or call me at 281-382-6523. **I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events!**

***Brian***

## **2023 Holiday Event Update! Mark your calendar for Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>**

The Event Committee is busy planning our **2023 Holiday Event to be held at the Junior League of Houston (shown at right)**. We have selected four entrée choices for our plated lunch. The vegetarian option will be available if requested by 10 or more people. If less than 10 order vegetarian, it will be the chef's choice. Those with special diet needs or food allergies will be able to let us know when registering for the event. The Junior League will make modifications to your meal choice based on your special needs.



### **Entrée Choices:**

- Chicken Parmigiana w/ marinara sauce & mozzarella cheese, creamy risotto & green beans
- Baked Salmon w/ lemon scampi sauce, wild rice & grilled zucchini
- Petite Filet of Beef w/ au jus sauce, potatoes au gratin & asparagus
- Eggplant Parmigiana, creamy risotto & vegetables (Vegetarian)

**Salad:** Mixed Greens Salad with olives, artichoke hearts, feta cheese & sun-dried tomato basil vinaigrette

**Desserts:** Chocolate Mousse Cake & Key Lime Pie



**We have secured Brian Greene (shown at left), President/CEO of the Houston Food Bank, as the speaker for our Holiday Event.** Since 2005, Brian has led the organization to a five-fold increase in distribution. Houston Food Bank is now the largest food bank in the world and distributes more than two hundred million dollars of food each year to one million recipients. In 2021, Nonprofit Times named Brian one of the 50 most influential nonprofit leaders in the US. Brian will share how our donated funds and food are used to better lives through a network of 1600 partnerships in 18 southeast Texas counties. After his brief talk, he will join us for lunch and socializing.

**Put the 2023 Holiday Event on your calendar now so you don't miss it!** Registration will open October 5, 2023. The

Event Committee is incorporating your feedback from last year's event. We will have plenty of room to socialize in a ballroom holding up to 320 people and an adjoining outdoor courtyard (weather permitting). A cash bar will be available in the ballroom. The Junior League of Houston is located at 1811 Briar Oaks, Houston, TX, 77027, which is centrally located inside the 610 Loop at San Felipe. The facility has free covered parking, and a security guard will be present.

You are welcome to send additional feedback to Kathy Mabe (Event Committee Chair) at [katie65432@gmail.com](mailto:katie65432@gmail.com). More details will be forthcoming in our Q4 Newsletter and future announcements.



## Upcoming Events!

### Planning a Remarkable Life Post-Chevron



CRA is hosting a Zoom session on **August 11, 12 PM Central**, with Lucinda Jackson (shown at left). She will talk about how we can all have a remarkable retirement. She'll share her Project Management approach (using CPDEP!), including a core value analysis, metrics, and a scorecard to plan life after Chevron. She relates personal examples and lessons learned that have led her to a "next act" that continues to serve her well. To register, go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0lce2hrT8sG9CENT16T6GTfMWLPGSVXF7>

### Peanut Butter Factory

Join your fellow Chevron retirees and active employees and help make peanut butter for the Houston Food Bank. **This is a great opportunity for our Chapter to demonstrate our commitment to community service.** If you would like to register for one of these events, please go to Chevron's Humankind website at <http://www.chevronhumankind.com/>. **You will need your 8-digit Chevron Humankind User ID.** There are helpful hints there if you have problems logging in. Once you have successfully logged in, click on the "Volunteer" tab on the home page and then "Search Opportunities". Enter "peanut" in the search field and you should see events on **September 8, October 20 (waitlist) and November 17.** The Peanut Butter Factory is located at The Church of Latter-Day Saints, 16333 Hafer Road, Houston, TX 77090



### Texans Game Days

**Come join your fellow Metro Houston Chapter members for a fun afternoon at Reliant Stadium!** Our President, Brian Batiste, has purchased tickets to two Houston Texans games. The first is their home opener against the Indianapolis Colts at noon on **Sunday, September 17.** The second is when the Pittsburgh Steelers come to town on **Sunday, October 1.** If we can get 25 MHC members and guests together, our Chapter can get recognized on the big scoreboard at halftime! Any net proceeds from ticket sales to MHC members will be used to help build our Chapter's Scholarship Fund. Pricing and other details were sent out recently. Seats are going fast, so register now at: <https://directory.cra-metrohouston.org/Football/MHCFootball.php>



### Dinner & Moody Blues Tribute Concert



Join your fellow MHC members on **Saturday, October 28**, for a night of great food and fantastic music as the **Houston Symphony plays music from the Moody Blues!** A supergroup of world-class rock musicians from the band **GO NOW!**—including drummer Gordy Marshall, who spent decades playing with The Moody Blues—joins the Symphony for stunning re-creations of classic hits like "Nights in White Satin," "Tuesday Afternoon," and "Go Now." Tickets for this concert are now available to the public. For concert ticket information, go to [www.houstonsymphony.org](http://www.houstonsymphony.org) or click on this link: [GO NOW! A Tribute to the Moody Blues - Houston Symphony](http://www.houstonsymphony.org/GO-NOW-A-Tribute-to-the-Moody-Blues-Houston-Symphony). As of the publication date of this Newsletter, there were 9 dinner slots still available at: <https://directory.cra-metrohouston.org/Damian/LuncheonX.php>.

### BenefitHub Zoom Session

On Thursday, **November 2**, at 12 PM Central, MHC will host a Zoom session featuring new CRA Benefits Committee Chair Jim Bonwell. Jim will show how retirees can obtain their "referral code" and use the BenefitHub website to obtain valuable discounts and other benefits. A link to the Zoom session will be provided to MHC members via e-mail. On July 1, Jim became the new Chair of the CRA Benefits Committee, taking the reins from MHC Member Bill Dodge. Jim's contact information is: Email: [jbbonwell@pacbell.net](mailto:jbbonwell@pacbell.net) Phone: 925-997-6072.

## 2023 Scholarship Award

It is our distinct pleasure to introduce Adam Buchsbaum as our 2023 scholarship recipient. Adam, accompanied by his parents, Billy and Laurie, was presented with the check for \$2000 at our July 17<sup>th</sup> luncheon at The ION by chapter president Brian Batiste. Adam is a graduate of Xavier Academy in Houston and is headed to Yale to major in Religious Studies. Adam's desire is to study religion to better understand people and then make an impact on the world as a professor, teaching and fostering the goal of mutual understanding and appreciation of our all being neighbors, worldwide.

Adam consistently distinguished himself not only with his academic excellence but through his in-depth and active participation in the Albert H. Small Normandy Institute program on WWII and the Normandy Campaign, volunteering with the Houston Municipal Court's Teen Court system and as a student ambassador on the Houston Holocaust Museum's Leadership Council, to name a few. To quote one of his teacher's references "Adam has undoubtedly changed my life for the better, and I am sure he has done the same for his fellow students, along with many staff members". We congratulate Adam!



2023 MHC Scholarship Award Ceremony. From L to R: Scholarship Committee Chair Keith Hall, Committee Member Sonya Sullenberger, Scholarship Winner Adam Buchsbaum and his parents, Billy and Laurie Buchsbaum.

Adam was nominated by his grandmother and MHC member, Annette Buchsbaum. Thank-you to our other chapter members who also submitted candidate nominations: Steve Seiler, Ed Crawford, Edward Gerstbrein, Centha Davis and David Stern. All the young people submitting applications were strong performers and highly qualified individuals. We have a lot to be thankful for with the 2023 graduates!

A special thank-you to our Scholarship Committee: Sonya Sullenberger, Bill Dodge, Charlie Rhoads and Doug Beatty. I welcome your ideas around scholarships as we head into the "off season". Please send your thoughts to me at: [pamnkey@gmail.com](mailto:pamnkey@gmail.com). With the Metro Houston Chapter being the largest in the country, we believe there are opportunities for us to do more! Stay tuned! - **Keith Hall, Scholarship Committee Chair**



## MHC Benefits Connection

Effective July 1, 2023, Jim Bonwell will take over as Chair of the CRA Benefits Committee, replacing Bill Dodge (shown at left). Bill has done an excellent job for the past several years and will still remain on the Committee for now. Thank you to Bill for all of your efforts, and to Jim for stepping up to take the Benefits Chair position! All future benefit-related inquiries and communications should be directed to Jim ([jbonwell@pacbell.net](mailto:jbonwell@pacbell.net)).

## Hits and Memories for Baby Boomers

- You're So Varicose Vein by Carly Simon
- These Boots Give Me Arthritis by Nancy Sinatra
- Talking 'Bout My Medication by the Who
- A Whiter Shade of Hair by Procol Harum
- I Can't See Clearly Now by Johnny Nash
- You Make Me Feel Like Napping by Leo Sayer
- How Can You Mend A Broken Hip? by the Bee Gees
- The First Time Ever I Forgot Your Face by Roberta Flack
- Once, Twice, Three Trips to the Bathroom by the Commodores
- Mrs. Brown, You've Got a Lovely Walker by Herman's Hermits
- I Get By with a Little Help from Depends by the Beatles
- Bald Thing by the Troggs



# John Wolff volunteers at the Houston Museum of Natural Science

MHC Member John Wolff worked in Chevron's natural gas midstream business area from 2006 to 2018, assessing international natural gas markets and tracking global LNG supply and demand issues as our Gorgon and Wheatstone projects advanced. His energy marketing background has helped him understand a variety of technologies and appreciate how the business has changed. When John retired from Chevron in 2018, he got involved as a docent at The Houston Museum of Natural Science (HMNS) and found it rewarding. This is John's volunteer story in his own words and edited for length.

In the 2022-23 school year, the Museum offered half-day programs for Houston Independent School District (HISD) fourth graders and second graders. The program typically included a Planetarium Show, a 50-minute tour of at least two Halls using docents like me and a Lab in the Lower Level of the Museum taught by a HISD teacher on staff. It ends up being a busy morning.

On some tours, kids are engaged and ask good questions while others prove challenging when kids are inattentive or distracted. I have found that the volunteer library, training classes and on-line materials helped me get comfortable in my role. The book club with interesting books is also a big plus.

In the last school year, 12,509 HISD students participated in the program, as well as 1,740 teachers and chaperones. Almost 90% of the HISD schools had classes visit for this program. I hope we get all the schools to participate in the upcoming school year.



*John with HISD students in the Paleo Hall*



*John speaking about his docent role at the Central MHC Neighborhood Luncheon in May*

In the 2022-23 School year, I served as one of the HISD Chairs to help coordinate the docent assignments for tours on most school days. We have over sixty docents who help on tours. A regular docent assignment would be one morning every two weeks. For example, a person could schedule to give tours on Tuesday mornings on the second and fourth Tuesdays in a month when HISD is in session. People could also serve one day every week and even several days per week if they have the time.

I also provide tours to the Weiss Energy Hall and help provide background information on the energy business, drawing on the wide array of exhibits in that Hall. Many Houston firms have sought tours for their summer interns and new hires. In the pre-Pandemic year of 2019, there were 219 docent-led tours in the Weiss Energy Hall for 8,542 patrons.

Many Chevron retirees probably benefited from their understanding of science and may wish to help others learn more. The docent program seeks individuals with an undergraduate technical degree. To become a docent, there is a screening procedure and a well-structured training program. Once badged as a docent, there are additional opportunities to help at the Museum. Best of all, docents can visit the Museum for free if they volunteer regularly. Of course, the Museum is air-conditioned, which is most appreciated in Houston's hot summers!

You can find out more about the volunteer process at <https://www.hmns.org/support-hmns/volunteer/>. The Museum is at 5555 Hermann Park Dr, Houston, TX 77030 if you just want to visit. If you'd like to schedule a tour, just call the Museum at: 713-639-4629. More information may be found at [www.hmns.org](http://www.hmns.org).

**If you'd like to share your volunteer story with your fellow retirees,** please e-mail us at [communications@cra-metrohouston.org](mailto:communications@cra-metrohouston.org)

## Treasurer's Report – 06/30/23

Our second quarter was quiet, with no major unplanned expenditures. What appears to be an emerging unfavorable variance in the Miscellaneous category is \$1,000 in advance deposits related to our upcoming Q4 events at Damian's and the Junior League of Houston. These expenditures will eventually be offset by member payments. Our 2023 Scholarship Award will be reflected in our next quarterly report once it is formally conveyed. At the June 20 board meeting, Ronald Leschak was appointed as Treasurer. Ronald replaces Dele Adeniji who resigned earlier in the year due to personal reasons. In his absence, former Treasurer Frank Coe had been filling in. Also appointed was Mridul Kumar as our Assistant Treasurer. Welcome, Ronald and Kumar!

Scholarship Fund	
Beginning balance 03/31/23	\$4,076
Donations	\$650
Interest	\$3
Awards	
Ending balance 06/30/23	\$4,729

	2023 Budget	YTD Actual
Revenue (Dues & Int.)	\$8,038	\$8,380.11
Expenses		
CRA Payments	\$2,400	\$2,427.00
Website	\$1,830	\$0.00
Email	\$1,220	\$158.70
Postage, office supplies	\$1,350	\$163.05
PayPal Fees	\$1,100	\$81.56
Miscellaneous	\$2,800	\$1,781.22
Total Expenses	\$10,700	\$4,611.53
Net income/(loss)	(\$2,662)	\$3,768.58

## Q3 Luncheon Recap at The ION

On July 17, our Q3 luncheon program was held at The ION in Midtown Houston and was also available via Zoom. Many of our members remember the renovated structure as the old Sears Building. See the photos below. The ION bills itself as **Houston's HQ for Innovation**. Its mission is: Bringing Houston's entrepreneurial, corporate, and academic communities into collaborative spaces and programs where ideas go to grow. Chevron was The ION's First Tenant and Program Partner.

Our Vice President, Rusty Gilbert, arranged for our chapter to hold our Q3 luncheon at The ION and coordinated with Chevron including Chevron Technology Ventures (CTV) to bring in Akshay Sanhi (shown at right) as our Guest Speaker. Akshay is GM of Strategy and Technology for Chevron Technology Ventures. Akshay provided an overview of the technologies that Chevron is focusing on to build tomorrow's businesses. He also addressed questions from the audience. After the luncheon, members were treated to a tour of The ION. More photos from the luncheon, including the 2023 MHC Scholarship Award presentation, may be found at our website: [www.cra-metrohouston.org](http://www.cra-metrohouston.org).



*The original Sears Building, ca. 1939*



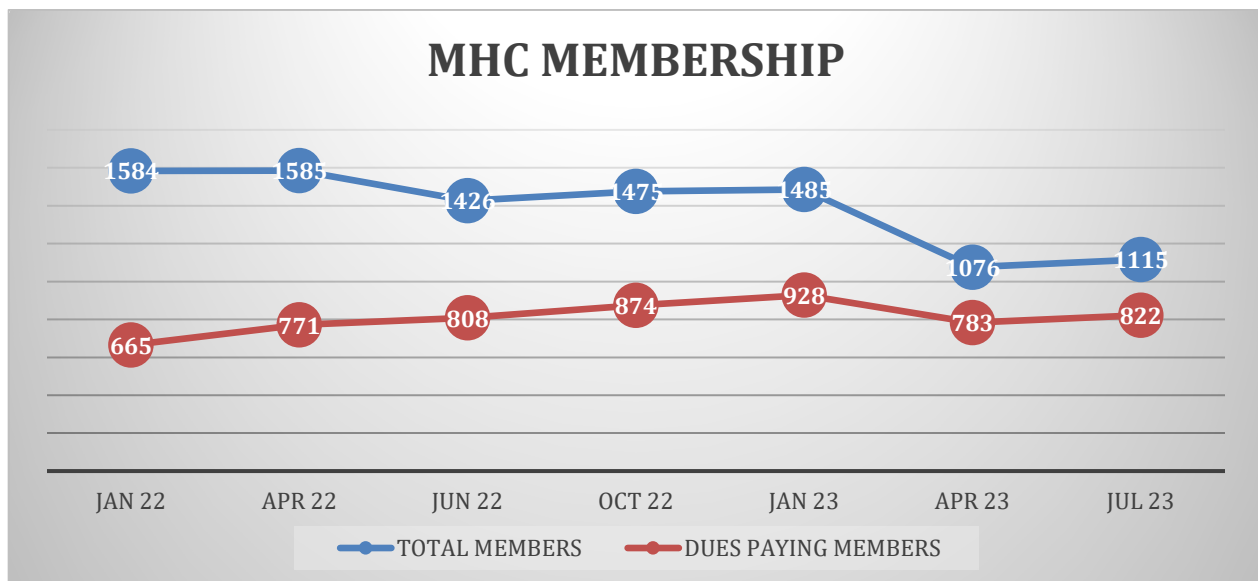
*The ION, which opened in 2022*

# Membership Report

The revised MHC Membership chart, shown below, reflects the variations of 3rd quarter 2023 membership information and shows an increase in the number of Dues Paying Members from 762 to 822, a 7% increase from the 2nd quarter of 2023. Our Total Members shows an increase from 1076 to 1115, a 3% increase. Our trend keeps going up!! ***Thanks to all of you who have renewed your dues paying status!*** Your participation helps us keep our chapter programs going!

We hope those who had the opportunity to participate in our Neighborhood Luncheons found value in renewing friendships and sharing information. We continue to expand our social events to offer a variety of opportunities to our members. **Please consider formalizing or renewing your membership so we can continue to offer these programs.**

**Our major Q3 event at The ION building in Midtown Houston was a big success. During the tour following the luncheon, it was great to watch the 3-D printers at work in The ION Prototyping Lab.** This facility is where your ideas meet the designers, engineers and fabricators that can make your vision a reality. We also saw **The ION Investor Studio**, which is a unique, private gathering space where innovators and Founders can interact and meet with other entrepreneurs, corporate sponsors and venture capital firms. But there is also a nostalgic sense as you walk around this renovated Sears Building that feels like going "Back to the Future" for those folks that used to come here with their parents to play at the basement floor level where the Toy Department was located.



**You can check your dues status by scanning the QR code shown below.** Enter your e-mail into the field then click "Continue" and your dues status will be shown. If your e-mail doesn't work, it probably means you were removed from our roster when your dues were two years past due or your Introductory Membership expired. Just send a note to [membership@cra-metrohouston.org](mailto:membership@cra-metrohouston.org) and we will gladly assist you in becoming current. As a reminder, you can still send in your dues in one of two ways:

**By Check (include your [membership form](#)) mailed to the NEW address below:**

**MHC Membership Data Coordinator  
P.O. Box 194  
Houston, TX 77001-0194**



**By Credit Card:** Click on this link [Pay Dues](#) and follow the guidance there.

Our Membership form is at [www.cra-metrohouston.org](http://www.cra-metrohouston.org). Click on "Membership" and select "Join".



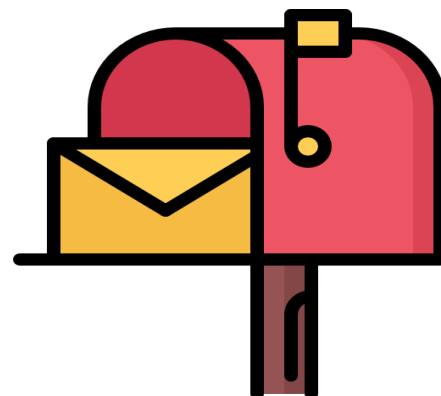
# MHC has a new Mailing Address!

The Metropolitan Houston Chapter has a new Post Office Box address as of July 28, 2023. **The new address to be used for any future correspondence and sending checks is:**

**MHC Membership Data Coordinator  
P.O. Box 194  
Houston, TX 77001-0194**

Our old address will remain active for a few more months during this transition. We are also updating the mailing address on our correspondence, website and other forms. If you have a 2023 MHC Membership Directory, please update the mailing address on Page 4.

Thanks to our new Membership Data Coordinator, Rebecca Rabon, for her assistance in setting up our new P.O. Box!



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## Help Wanted!

The success of the Metro Houston Chapter depends on our members' willingness to serve in leadership roles. We are grateful for the service of all our officers and volunteers. The work is not that demanding, and **we really do need you**. As of the publication date of this Newsletter, the following positions are open:

**Program Committee Chair** – Our current VP, Rusty Gilbert, will be stepping down at the end of 2023 to focus on building his energy advising business. Rusty also chairs our Program Committee, which identifies interesting topics and guest speakers for our Neighborhood Luncheons and Zoom sessions. Rusty was also instrumental in securing The ION for our Q3 luncheon venue. If you have an interest in helping our chapter with these types of functions, please contact Rusty at [rusty@jrgilbertenergy.com](mailto:rusty@jrgilbertenergy.com)

**Newsletter Editor** – Creates the quarterly MHC Newsletter by collecting and assembling articles submitted by BOD members relating to their areas of responsibility along with other articles such as the Neighborhood Luncheon schedule, nominations for officers in the 4th quarter, benefit updates and other special articles. The Newsletter Editor also generates the *In Memoriam* article using Excel. Once all articles are available, they are compiled into a pleasing format and submitted to the Board for review and comments. This position requires knowledge of Word, Excel and saving documents as .pdfs. For more information, please reach out to Jean Silarski at [jms73ms@gmail.com](mailto:jms73ms@gmail.com)

**Local Host (Southwest Area)** – Our Neighborhood Luncheons held in Missouri City need a Local Host. Primary job duties include greeting our attendees as they arrive, taking attendance, handing out and collecting name badges, signing up any new members, providing tickets for the door prize drawing and managing the collection jars for the Houston Food Bank and MHC Scholarship Fund. To learn more, contact our Luncheon Host Coordinator, Roger Cutler at [MHC@rtcutter.com](mailto:MHC@rtcutter.com)

**If you are willing to serve in any of these roles, please reach out via e-mail to the contacts noted above or Brian Batiste at [batb2725@gmail.com](mailto:batb2725@gmail.com) or 281-382-6523.**







# IN MEMORIAM

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of these individuals.

R= Retiree; S= Surviving Spouse



Name	Legacy Company	R/S		Name	Legacy Company	R/S
ORLANDO L ARCEO	TEXACO	R		HARRIET LASH	CHEVRON	S
FRANCES B BERLETH	CHEVRON	S		ALFREDO F LOPER	UNOCAL	R
DENNIS E BLOEDEL	TEXACO	R		MARIE A MELDE	GULF	R
ROSE BODOR	TEXACO	S		BERTHA MENDEZ	CHEVRON	R
ROY J BRANDON	GULF	R		HUMBERTO MENDOZA	CHEVRON	R
NOLAN GLENN CARMAN	CHEVRON	R		POLA C MESTRE	CHEVRON	S
THOMAS R CHAMPAGNE	CHEVRON	R		MARY P MILTON	CHEVRON	S
GARRETT F CHAPMAN	CHEVRON	R		CLOY D MONZINGO	CHEVRON	R
WILLIAM R CHOATE	UNOCAL	R		RICHARD A MORRIS	CHEVRON	R
PATSY C CRATON	CHEVRON	S		STEPHEN W OHNIMUS	UNOCAL	R
CLIFFORD T CROWE	CHEVRON	R		MARJORIE A QUINN	CHEVRON	R
DOROTHY DALY	TEXACO	S		MORRIS D RAY	GETTY	R
JACK A DENNISON	TEXACO	R		THOMAS D ROBINSON	GULF	R
LEONARD J EVERSULL	GETTY	R		WILLIAM H ROMANO	TEXACO	R
KEITH H FLASH	TEXACO	R		ANDREW G SCHROETER	TEXACO	R
NOLAN O FOSHEE	CHEVRON	R		ROY G SKILLERN	TEXACO	R
JIMMYE H FROST	TEXACO	R		SHARLY D SLOAN	CHEVRON	R
ELIZABETH P GERBER	TEXACO	S		ERMA J STEADMAN	CHEVRON	S
MARTIN E GERBER	TEXACO	R		ANITA C STELTER	CHEVRON	R
KENNETH F HAMMONDS	CHEVRON	R		MANIK TALWANI	GULF	R
HAROLD L HARTLINE	TEXACO	R		NAOMA H THOMPSON	CHEVRON	R
THOMAS G HAZELWOOD	CHEVRON	R		JOYCE L VALENCIANO	TEXACO	S
EARLINE HOLLAS	TEXACO	S		BETTY L WESTMORELAND	GULF	R
DAVID GENE IRWIN	TEXACO	R		DOROTHY D WHITE	TEXACO	R
LEON KATAPODIS	UNOCAL	S				

## CRA Survivor's Guide and Advanced Care Planning

When a retiree or spouse passes, your family members and other survivors will need information so that they can make wise decisions at a very difficult time. To help you organize your personal and financial records, and leave clear instructions to your family, CRA has published a **Survivor's Guide** on their website. It is available at: [Newsletters \(chevronretirees.org\)](https://www.chevronretirees.org/newsletters). For readers of our paper version, go to [www.chevronretirees.org](https://www.chevronretirees.org) and look for the **Spotlight On** articles.

In addition, CRA has published a brand new document on this same web page: [CRA Advanced Care Planning Booklet](https://www.chevronretirees.org/cra-advanced-care-planning-booklet). This booklet focuses on Planning for the Rewards and Challenges of Aging. At some time, you'll most likely face a senior care situation, either as the person in need of care or as a caregiver. This booklet examines some senior care issues to help you handle current needs and plan for future care for yourself or a family member.