

**William Edward “Bill” Grantham**  
July 14, 1926 - May 9, 2022

**The Service of Worship**  
*celebrating the life of*  
**William Edward “Bill” Grantham**

Friday, May 13, 2022 11:00 a.m.

Calder Baptist Church

Beaumont, Texas

Dr. James R. Fuller, Senior Pastor, Retired

Betty Duncan, Pianist

Chris Richter, Organist

**Prelude**

**Hymn 338: “How Firm a Foundation”**

*all who are able, please stand and sing -- verses 1 & 4*

**Opening Sentences**

**A Life Remembered**  
*reading of the obituary  
memories*

**Prayer**

**Medley of Bill’s Favorite Hymns**  
**Betty Duncan**

**Eulogy**  
*All is Grace*

**Message**  
*Past, Present, Future*

**Prayer**

**Hymn 330: “Amazing Grace”**  
*verses one and five*

**Postlude**



**William Edward “Bill” Grantham**, 95, of Beaumont, died Monday, May 9, 2022, at Calder Woods, Beaumont. He was born in Corpus Christi on July 14, 1926. He was the son of Oscar and Mamie Grantham. Bill graduated from St. Anthony High School in 1944 and attended Lamar University before joining the United States Army Air Corps.

He married his high school sweetheart, Johnnie Conley. He and his wife, Johnnie, started their company Sanitary Supply Co, Inc., in 1966, after being Vice-President with Sanitary Chemical, Inc. for many years. Bill had been a manager for Sanitary Chemical Lab, which was founded in 1937. When the owner sold out due to poor health, Grantham bought the janitorial products line and opened Sanitary Supply on 6790 College in Beaumont. Bill and his son, Larry Grantham, now ran this successful business together. Their customer base has grown considerably, and their territory has expanded over the years. Today, Sanitary Supply serves about a hundred-mile radius including Beaumont, Southeast Texas, Southwest Louisiana, and Baytown. They were the first company of their type in this area. They sell to many of the leading industries including schools, government entities, industrial plants, and wholesale and retail customers. Bill would say, “Our business is founded on service” and that “I’m just happy to be in this area to serve all our customers”.

He was a devoted husband and father and took great interest and pride in his son and daughter, three grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. He and his wife began traveling in their many motorhomes they had purchased since 1975. They had traveled to every state in the U.S. and Canada while playing golf along the way. Bill loved playing golf with his friends at the Beaumont Country Club

and having lunch with his two lunch bunch buddies. He had many hobbies including traveling, golf, fishing, gardening, and woodwork. Bill was a Deacon at Calder Baptist Church and a member of mixed doubles Sunday School Class. For many years, he was a member of the West Beaumont Rotary Club of Beaumont where he served as President and a Paul Harris Fellow. Bill was President of the Business Professional Men's Club, President of Sales and Marketing Executive Club, and Chairman of Schlesinger Nursing Home. Bill served on the board of the Symphony of Southeast Texas and many other boards.

Survivors include his wife, Johnnie Grantham; son, Larry Grantham and his wife, Susan Elizabeth, of Beaumont; daughter, Cookie Schenck and her husband, Barry, of Hunt; brother, Frank Grantham and his wife, Arlene, of Beaumont; grandchildren, Jennifer Buckley Hall and her husband, Ryan; Lindsey Buckley Leonard and her husband, Kyle; and Larry W. Grantham, Jr. and his wife, Amanda; and great-grandchildren, Hank Hall, Wes Hall, Luke Hall, Meredith Leonard, Charlotte Leonard, Morgan Grantham, and Emma Grantham.

He is preceded in death by his parents and sisters, Betty Pearson, June Braquet, and Pat Acker.









# Sanitary Supply

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Sanitary Supply has experienced steady growth since Bill Grantham started the company in 1966. "Business has been good," said Grantham. "We've never had a year that we haven't seen an increase in sales."

Bill Grantham had been a manager for Sanitary Chemical Lab, which was founded in 1937. When the owner sold out due to poor health, Grantham bought the janitorial products line and opened Sanitary Supply on 6790 College in Beaumont. Bill and his son, Larry Grantham, now run this successful business together.

Their customer base has grown considerably, and their territory has expanded over the past 28 years. They have made eight additions to the current facilities to keep pace with growth. Today, Sanitary Supply serves about a hundred-mile radius, including Beaumont, Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana. The Baytown branch, opened about seven years ago, is also thriving and expanding. The Beaumont and Baytown stores have 15 employees.

"We are the first company of our type in this area," said Grantham. "Consequently, we have the distributorship for some of the leading industries here." They sell to schools, government entities, industrial plants, wholesale and retail consumers. Drop-in customers account for about three percent of sales. A vast majority of business is from commercial accounts handled by four outside sales representatives.

"Our business is founded on service," said Grantham. "All our reps are experts in the field." The sales representatives demonstrate the correct use of products, recommend different cleaning supplies and train custodial staff. Bill and Larry Grantham conduct custodial seminars and training schools on effective cleaning methods, manufacturers come down to demonstrate products, and training films and booklets are available. "All these services are free to our clients," said

Grantham.

Much of the facilities' expansion over the years has been additional warehouse space to accommodate the growing inventory. "We have one of the largest inventories in the area," said Grantham. The Baytown store carries almost 1,700 items, and the Beaumont store probably stocks more than 3,000 different items.

"We sell a lot of things that people wouldn't think of getting in a janitorial supply store," said Grantham. Their extensive inventory includes computer paper, lighting products and food service goods such as disposable napkins, plates, cups etc. Sanitary Supply is a major paper distributor for Ft. Howard and Bay West, selling toilet paper, paper towels and napkins. They even carry heavy-duty machines: scrubbers, industrial vacuum cleaners, floor maintainers, shampoos and extractors. These machines are also available for rent to commercial customers.

Sanitary Supply used to manufacture some of their own products but found it was more cost-effective to keep the items on hand. "We can buy things for just about what it costs to make the products," said Grantham.

Both Bill and Larry Grantham are active in civic and community organizations, including the chamber of commerce, West Beaumont Rotary and the Cardinal Club. They each have memberships and hold positions with several prominent business clubs and associations.

"I'm just happy to be in this area to serve all our customers," said Grantham. "And we're still striving to do more. When you quit growing you die on the vine."

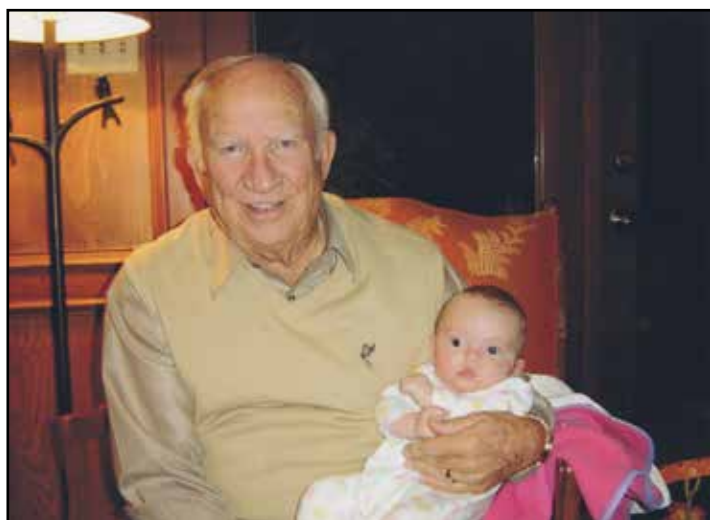
Bill Grantham is now semi-retired and his son, Larry, runs the business. "I'm going to keep working as long as I have an office down here," he said. "But I do less and less all the time."

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### **Pallbearers**

Larry Grantham, Jr.  
Randy Reese  
Kyle Leonard  
Ryan Hall  
Hank Hall  
Wes Hall  
Luke Hall

### **Honorary Pallbearers**

David Aker  
Members of the Mixed Doubles Sunday School Class  
at Calder Baptist Church

### **Interment**

Forest Lawn Memorial Park  
Beaumont, Texas

### **Military Honors**

United States Army  
Southeast Texas Veterans Service Group

### **Memorial Contributions**

The Bill and Johnnie Grantham  
Scholarship in Nursing at Lamar University  
P.O. Box 10081  
Beaumont, Texas 77710-0081

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Calder Baptist Church  
1005 North 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Beaumont, Texas 77702

*Broussards*  
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Please sign Mr. Grantham's guest book and share your memories at  
**[broussards1889.com](http://broussards1889.com)**