

## **JAMES J. (TIGER) ELLIS** ***MISSOURI '55***

Born in Monett, Mo., Jim Ellis served as the quarterback of his state championship football team and was offered a basketball scholarship by the University of Missouri. He developed a strong work ethic at an early age through sports and working on the Coca-Cola trucks his father ran throughout the southwest Missouri region. His college years were some of Tiger's favorites, and the fraternal friendships formed at 520 College Avenue in Columbia blessed Jim throughout his lifetime.

Married to his wife, Van Hartman Ellis, for more than 51 years, in 1960 they moved to Dallas where he started his career with Mutual of New York. He was appointed manager of the Dallas agency in 1976, earning the title of general manager. He retired from management in 1992. In 2003, Jim was elected to the General Fraternity's Board of Directors of the Beta Theta Pi Foundation, and he served on the house corporation of his beloved Zeta Phi Chapter for many years.

Having earned a litany of industry awards, including a Life Member of the Million Dollar Round Table, Jim received the Faculty Alumni Award from the University of Missouri and the Citation of Merit from the University's Alumni Association. He was a University of Missouri Jefferson Club member and was active in the Davenport Society, the strategic planning board of the College of Business. Jim was a member and past president of the Dallas Country Club and served on a number of corporate boards.

While Jim's accomplishments reflect his notable intellect, character and work ethic, Jim is remembered most significantly for his collection and network of close friends and fraternity brothers. He loved people and maintained friendships from across the country. He was a man of faith, character and integrity, and was a gentleman at all times. Jim was fun-loving and a blessing to all who knew him. He was indeed a man of principle for the ages.

Jim is survived by his wife, Van, his daughters Mary Van Ellis Armistead and Helen Ellis, his son-in-law Howard L. Armistead III, and his three grandchildren Caroline, Howard IV and Elizabeth Armistead.