



Max Levit

December 22, 1934 - October 21, 2024

Work Hard, Be Nice, Have Fun. These were words that Max Levit often repeated and always lived by.

Max Stanley Levit was born to Joe and Dora Levit on December 22, 1934. The youngest of three brothers, he lived on South McGregor and graduated from San Jacinto High School. Moving on to the University of Texas, Max was president of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity and was honored to be a member of the prestigious Texas Cowboy service organization. He also served as head of the committee to select the Cowboy Sweethearts, a role that he was uniquely qualified for.

Upon graduation from UT Max went into the Navy, serving as a supply officer on the aircraft carrier USS Hornet. After a 2-year tour in the South Pacific, a time that Max remembered fondly, he returned to Houston to work for the family business, The Grocers Supply Company. Started by his parents, Joe and Dora, in 1923, Max and his brothers, Milton and George, built Grocers Supply into the largest independently owned wholesaler of grocery products in the Southeastern US and the largest supplier of Hispanic grocery products in the country. Max was extremely proud of Grocers Supply and loved being a part of operations, negotiations and management. He truly embodied the company's philosophy of honesty, integrity and doing business on a handshake.

In 1961 Max met and married Rochelle Lynn Hoffman and soon after started a family. They had three children, Tracy, Clay, and Cindy. Max was an extremely loving and involved father, taking the kids out for special Sunday breakfasts, coaching little league, and going on family vacations. He was rarely in a bad mood, perhaps because of his devotion to exercise, which was a daily part of his life. After work each day when the kids were little, he would go visit his mother then come home and go for a run. In later years he frequented The Houstonian in his famous James Coney Island hot dog shirt, where friends joked that he was “the mayor” because of the amount of time he spent chatting with the other members compared to the time he spent exercising.

Philanthropy was a priority to Max, as is evident by the number of Houston institutions, including Stages Theater, MD Anderson, Memorial Park Conservancy, and Beth Israel Synagogue, that have a wing, feature, or building bearing his name. He was also generous with his time and talent, serving on many boards including the Houston Food Bank, Texas Heart Institute, MD Anderson and UT Health Houston, where he served as president. In 1996, along with his best friend, Morrie Abramson, Max received the Torch of Liberty Award, bestowed by the Southwest Region of the Anti-Defamation League.

When the Levit family sold Grocers Supply in 2014, Max became president of 2ML Real Estate Interests, an offshoot of Grocers Supply. The 2ML project that Max was most proud of was Levit Green, a 52-acre mixed-use project adjacent to the Texas Medical Center that sits at the epicenter of Houston’s biotech, corporate life sciences and medical research hub.

Max loved his work and loved his family, but he really loved to have fun. Bridge was a huge part of Max’s life. He learned to play from Papa Joe, his father, who said it was the most fun you could have with your clothes on. Max

played in Houston for decades and became a Sapphire Life Master. It was through the love of bridge that Max met his wife Lynne, who was his beloved partner in the last years of his life. They brought each other so much joy and spent the too-short time they had together enjoying cruises, world travel, meals out with friends, and a whole lot of laughing. Lynne's large family embraced Max, and he was honored to consider himself a part of their tribe.

Max died peacefully at home with Lynne at his side holding his hand. He will be deeply missed. He is survived by his wife Lynne, his children and grandchildren: Tracy and Glen Lerner and Maddox; Clay and Katy Levit, Rose, Nate Aune, and Saoirse; and Cindy Levit, Ryan and Ian; as well as Lynne's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren: Lisa and Charles Williams, Bailey, Emma Horwitz, Megan, Charlie, Ryan, Peter and Patrick; Patrick and Charlotte Beathard, Julianna and Lee Siratt, Bear and Rosie, Drew, Beau, Zachary and Tess; Trey and Angela Beathard, Bob, Bennett and Beck; and Tiffany and Charles Masterson, Chloe, Lili, Mia and William. He was predeceased by his wife Rochelle and his brothers Milton and George.

All of us will remember to work hard, be nice and have fun – and don't be a horse's ass, as Max was fond of adding. And all of us will remember Max with love in our hearts. May his memory be a blessing.

A memorial service was held at Congregation Beth Israel on Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at 2:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers donations can be sent to Holocaust Museum Houston (www.hmh.org) or Congregation Beth Israel (www.beth-israel.org).

Cemetery Details

Beth Yeshurun Post Oak Cemetery

7445 Awty School Ln.
Houston, TX 77055

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT **23**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Congregation Beth Israel
5600 N. Braeswood Blvd.
Houston, TX 77096

The service will be livestreamed at <https://www.beth-israel.org/about-us/news-events-upcoming-events/livestreaming/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Caring Condolences Gift Basket was purchased for the family of Max Levit.*



October 22, 2024 at 03:11 PM



“ *I've supported Max in his business office for several years now. He never failed to thank me for helping him, he always had a smile and a giggle to share. He was a delight to know and work with - he was my sweet friend and I loved him and will miss him terribly. I'm so glad he slide into home plate, whooping it up and exclaiming joy for the great ride! I know he died happy with his wife, family and friends, having enjoyed the last years of his life to the fullest.*

Gayle Goddard - October 21, 2024 at 09:43 PM



“ *Just after the Olympic in Paris, a couple of months ago, I was playing bridge opposite Max. We had a delightful conversation about how the ideal vacation would be to have been in Paris watching beach volleyball under the Eiffel tower. We went into details about how nice it would be to be able to go to events every day and sit in wonderful seats to see it in the best way. And Paris! What more could you ask. Of course he was displaying his incredibly beautiful smile.*

Judith Busby - October 21, 2024 at 09:16 PM

SW

“ So very sad to hear this tragic news. He was loved by so many, especially, my uncle! A sweet man with a twinkle in his eye and a spark in his step. I will miss you Max! Hugs for the entire family.

Stephanie A Weiss - October 21, 2024 at 07:21 PM



“ My husband, Rustin Myers, so appreciated working for Max for many years at Grocers Supply. The family is in my thoughts and prayers.

Kathleen Myers - October 21, 2024 at 06:48 PM