

(04/04/2003) Colon Earl ``Tate" Jordan, Sr. Colon Earl ``Tate" Jordan, Sr. a retired Austin police officer who had a hand in solving some of the city's most notable criminal cases from the 1950s to early 1990s, passed on to his heavenly father, April 2nd after a lengthy fight with diabetes. ``Tate," as he was known to family, friends and colleagues, was born March 29, 1926 in Weir, Williamson County, Texas. He was the eldest of four children born to Clyde Irvin Jordan and Thelma Gunn in Georgetown, Texas. He attended public schools in Georgetown, and graduated in 1945 from Georgetown, High School. A tackle on the high school varsity football team, and noted for his athleticism, he accepted and attended Southwestern University in Georgetown on a football scholarship. In 1951 he was married to Billie Bernice Connell of Liberty Hill, Texas in Gatesville, Coryell County. Shortly, after their marriage the newlyweds moved to Austin and began planning and raising their family. They had six children: Patrick Marvin Jordan, Tzana Earlette Jordan, Paul Connell Jordan, Sampson Kenneth Jordan, James Edward Jordan and Colon Earl Jordan, Jr. Their only daughter, Tzana Earlette died in an auto accident in 1968. The five surviving sons attended public schools in Austin. All are now either involved in investigative work for local law enforcement agencies or in corporate security. Jordan joined the Austin Police Department in 1953, and after completing cadet training in a class of twelve men became a commissioned peace officer on November 2, 1953. At this time the Austin Police Department was composed of approximately 125 men and the City of Austin's population was approximately 125,000. In his more than thirty-seven and a half years with The Austin Police Department, Jordan served the public as an instruct at the Austin Police Academy and Texas Department of Public Safety, Police Association (Union) President in 1963 and as a member of the Unions Political Action Committee (PAC). For years he was lieutenant in command of the department's homicide unit, then known as the ``Number One Detail". Beyond hundreds of significant criminal cases he investigated, some of his most noteworthy accomplishments were his community service with Police Activity League (PAL), working with at Risk Kids, helping to establish a Medical Examiners Office and The Rape Crisis Center in Austin, along with donating countless hours in support of Austin Crime Stoppers. The motto that shaped his intuitive investigative law enforcement career, and influenced hundreds of young police officers was ``Absence of Evidence is not Evidence of Absence!" Jordan was a member of these organizations: Crestview Baptist Church; Masonic Hill City Lodge #456; Travis County; Scottish Rite Mason 32nd Degree; Sons of American Revolution; Sons of the Republic of Texas; Knights of San Jacinto; Valley Forge Descendants Society; Sons of Confederate Veterans; Sons of the War of 1812; and Military Order of the Stars and Bars. His many honors included: Police Officer of the Year at the Austin Police Department in 1959; recognized by the Citizens of Austin for Outstanding Service to the Community in 1960; Honorary Member of the Texas Navy in 1982; Honorary Commission as an Admiral in The Texas Navy in 1986; Honored by the City of Austin for Extraordinary Commitment, Dedication to Excellence and Reliable Service to the City in 1986; presented the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal by the National Society of SAR in 1991; honored with the establishment of the Lt. C. E. Jordan, Sr. Endowment Fund at Sam Houston State University in 1991 by his five sons; District Representative for Post Oak Area of Sons of the Republic of Texas; Founding Member and Chapter President of the S.R.T., Albert Sidney Johnston, Chapter #37, 1986-2002; served as Retiree Representative to the Austin Police Association

(Union) 1991-1997; and appointed by the Travis County District Attorney's Office as a Commission Member of the Travis County Sheriff's Department Civil Service Commission 1992-1999. Family Members preceding him in death are his only daughter, Tzana Earlette Jordan, parents, Clyde Irvin Jordan and Thelma Gun, and a sister, Marjorie Nell Jordan Shepherd. Survivors include his wife Billie Bernice Connell Jordan of Austin, brother Nolan Kenneth `Bud' Jordan and wife Louise of Burnet, sister Madge Lincoln and husband Ernest of Florence and brother-in-law Hershel Shepherd of Georgetown, Aunt Nettie Sudduth of Georgetown, and sister-in-law Oleta Connell. Sons, Patrick Marvin Jordan, and wife Danise of Georgetown; Paul Connell Jordan, and wife Frances of Round Rock; Sampson Kenneth Jordan, and wife Cynthia of Round Rock, James Edward Jordan, and wife Cilly of Buda; and Colon Earl Jordan, Jr. and wife Sue of Troy, Texas. Grandchildren are Bryan Jordan and wife Debbie, Keith Jordan and wife Stephanie, Sara Jordan Todd and husband James, David Jordan, Sampson Jordan, Jr., Christopher Jordan, Philip Jordan, Curtis Jordan, Preston Jordan, Tzana Jordan, Elise Jordan, Lacy Jordan, Kaitlin Jordan, Colon E. Jordan, III, Cody Jordan and Daniel Jordan. Stepgrandson Wayne Lee Great-grand children Courtney and Colton Jordan, and Step great grandson Joshua Olson. Along with numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Grandsons will serve as Pallbearers with the Austin Police Association Retirees serving as honorary. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Lt. C. E. Jordan, Sr. Endowment Fund at Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas 77340 or to a charity of your choice. Services are scheduled for 11:00 a.m., Saturday, April 5th at the Cook Walden Funeral Home, 6100 North Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas, with interment to follow at Capital Park Gardens, Pflugerville, Texas.