

In Memory of Hal Tehan



A man fully dedicated to his faith and community, Hal Tehan's passing is a tremendous loss for The Catholic Foundation, our Catholic community and all of Dallas.

Tehan grew up in Rock Falls, Illinois, and graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1948. The following year, he settled in Dallas and branded the city as his home for the rest of his life with his personal investment of time, talents and treasure.

Shortly after arriving in Dallas, he joined the Haggar Company where he rose in the ranks to Executive Vice President. After 32 years of service with Haggar, Tehan retired to take on the full-time position of Executive Director of

The Catholic Foundation in 1981. He grew the Foundation into one of the most successful in the nation. His love for this work was so great, that upon his retirement from the Foundation in 1990, he took on the full-time position of Development Director.

"On behalf of The Catholic Foundation staff and board, we offer our prayers and condolences to Hal Tehan's family at his passing," said Matt Kramer, president and CEO of The Catholic Foundation. "This is a loss for all of the Catholic community, as he was a man of integrity, faith and commitment. He will be forever remembered for his leadership at The Catholic Foundation. His expertise and dedication bolstered our community so greatly, and his legacy will live on to spur us to continue in his footsteps."

Honored with The Catholic Foundation Award in 1997, Tehan illustrated his graciousness and humility when he said, "To be honored by The Catholic Foundation, an organization that has been such a positive force in my life and our community, is overwhelming. By honoring me, The Catholic Foundation is really honoring the entire Catholic community. They never failed to answer my calls and the call of a church and community in need. I share this award with thousands of people who said yes when I asked for their help."

In addition to The Catholic Foundation Award, Tehan was honored as Notre Dame's 1965 Man of the Year. He was a Knight of Malta as well as a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre. He served on the finance committees of both St. Rita and St. Monica parishes, and gave his time as President of the Serra Club, the Jesuit Foundation and the Notre Dame Club of Dallas. He also served on the advisory committee of American Airlines, the city of Dallas Economic Development Advisory Board, and the Dallas Crime Commission. His dedication extended beyond his Dallas home as he was the Director of the Center for Applied Research Apostolate in Washington, D.C. and a member of the Serra International Foundation Board in Chicago, Illinois.

A quote from one of The Catholic Foundation's founding members, the late Tom Unis, provides a beautiful statement about the life and service of Hal Tehan.

"Without Tehan, the Foundation wouldn't be what it is today. It's just that simple," said Unis. "He approached the job with determination, drive and an overwhelming faith that is beyond any possibility we could have imagined. The Foundation's strength in numbers reflects our strength in service, and it's there that we can see the graciousness of a loving God. This is what good stewardship is all about."