

Ballinger City Attorney Surpasses Fifty Years of Service

On November 29, 1957, upon motion by L. A. Faubion, the Ballinger City Commission appointed Everett J. "Ebb" Grindstaff as city attorney with a retainer fee of \$50.00 per month for his term of office. Each city council since that time has seen fit to continue his service as city attorney, and his term has continued for over fifty years. Ebb, as he is known, has been licensed for fifty-three years and is still a practicing attorney in Ballinger. During that period of time, Ebb associated with many mayors, city councilmen, city secretaries, city administrators, and city employees who have served in a dedicated and unselfish manner for the best interest of Ballinger.

Ebb came from a family of attorneys. His dad, E. C. "Judge" Grindstaff, was county judge in Runnels County, and district attorney in San Angelo and Ballinger for over thirty years. Ebb and Judge practiced together as partners during all of those years. In addition, Ebb had two great uncles, Lige Grindstaff, who practiced in Weatherford, and Henry Grindstaff, who practiced in Rotan and Haskell, who both had distinguished careers. Ebb is a licensed fellow of the Texas Bar Association, a life member counselor of the Baylor Law School, and was distinguished by being elected as one of the fifteen directors of the State Bar of Texas, where he served for three years (1971-74).

In addition to his law practice, which has been mainly in the fields of oil and gas, real estate, and probate and trust, he is also very active in community affairs in Ballinger. He has served as president of the chamber of commerce and past chairman of the Upper Colorado River Authority. He was even elected as citizen of the year on two separate occasions. His most active service outside of the legal field was as director and president of Lions Clubs International, the largest service organization in the world.

One of his favorite projects was the Texas Lions League for Crippled Children, but as president he also had the opportunity to initiate several programs internationally, including the Drug Education, Diabetes Awareness, and Journey For Sight programs. Interestingly, his Lions Club service also afforded him the opportunity to meet and confer with President Sadat of Egypt, Prime Minister Begin of Jerusalem, Presidents Carter and Reagan, Pope John Paul II, and various other dignitaries of other countries. In addition, he received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Diabetes Association in 1984, and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation 1983 Humanitarian Award, for his work in helping diabetics worldwide. Ebb's travels and life goals are chronicled in a book entitled "Lion Crossing the Sinai."

Ebb has also been active in the First Baptist Church of Ballinger as a teacher, Sunday school superintendent, and deacon.

He and his wife Jeannette "Jay" met at Baylor University, were married, and have lived in Ballinger since 1956 (after having served two years in the Counterintelligence Corp of the U. S. Army in Japan). They have two children: Jeff Grindstaff and his wife, Elizabeth, and Michelle Moussa and her husband, Mark. They also have four grandchildren: Tanner Moussa, Mackenzie Moussa, Will Grindstaff, and Kate Grindstaff.

According to Ebb, "It has been a pleasure to serve in such a capacity [as city attorney,] and I wish to continue my association with the city."

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Edited by Scott Houston (shouston@tml.org)