

Commentary

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In memory of Roy Lynch

This week east Parker County lost one of its true pioneers and local icons with the untimely death of Roy Lynch.

Roy started in local real estate about 1972, and over the years his business grew to be the largest real estate company in Parker County by far. In so many ways he shaped what our local area has become.

When the Lynches first got started, there were few if any builders in the area. Because he sold real estate, but didn't have a lot of inventory, Roy began building houses so he could sell them, in true entrepreneurial fashion.

But for those who know truly how a successful locally-owned business operates, it's not just the business you do, but *how* you do it.

Bridgett Smith, one of Roy's agents, said "For those of you who never met Roy Lynch, you missed knowing one of the best men out there. He had a heart of gold. He will be dearly missed."

In my early days as a struggling new newspaper publisher, Roy Lynch was one of the first people I had a business relationship with. At the time it was simply "Lynch & Associates" - the "Century 21" part came later. While Century 21 always came first in the name of the business, the reason people utilized their services was the "Lynch & Associates" part, and that's the way I'll always think of the business.

During the last 17 years, I saw the number of agents grow, and spent many a day building ads with the properties on sale in a given week.

If you have been around long enough, you will remember that the office for Lynch & Associates once



sat at the corner of Ranch House Road and I-20 where Whataburger now does business. When Roy and Jan sold the property, they donated the building to a small church, which re-purposed it further up Ranch House Road. That building is now Willow Park City Hall.

Through the years some of my best friends were met through Lynch & Associates. I venture to think that very few people in our area have not been touched in some

way by the the legacy of Roy and Jan and their business.

I ran into Roy at a football game in November, and he recalled that when he first started, there were about 600 single family homes in the Aledo School District. Now that number has grown ten-fold. He had a grandson on the field at that game, and Roy spent many pleasant hours through his life watching kids and grandkids at sporting events.

Every community has local icons who have been responsible for the way they have grown and developed. Roy Lynch was such a person for east Parker County.

Rees Atkins told me "Roy was Aledo before Aledo was Aledo." I can't think of a better way to sum it up.

We offer our condolences to Jan and the rest of Roy's family. We do know how he will be missed.

- RANDY KECK