Inabnett, Michael Christian 'Chris'
1947-2021
By Messenger Staff | Published on February 03, 2021
With profound sadness, the family of Michael Christian "Chris" Inabnett announces his sudden passing on Jan. 13, 2021, at the age of 73. Chris was born in Decatur on July 4, 1947, to William Thurman and Lila Maxine Inabnett. He grew up in Decatur, and he graduated from Decatur High School in 1965. After high school, Chris attended Southern Methodist University, New Mexico Military Institute and The University of Texas at Austin from which he graduated with a business degree in 1970. It was at UT that Chris met Martha Nell Dezelle, whom he married in 1970, shortly after graduation. Last year Chris and Martha celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.
After UT, Chris went on to study law at Texas Tech University School of Law where he served on the law review. Following graduation, Chris clerked for Texas Supreme Court Associate Justice James Gray Denton before he and Martha moved to Dallas where Chris began his law practice at Gardere, Porter & Dehay, which later became Gardere & Wynne. In 1992, Chris left Gardere & Wynne to start his own firm where he remained until his retirement.
Those left to treasure and honor Chris's memory are his wife, Martha; and their three children, Amanda Inabnett and husband, Brian Hughes, of Dallas, John Inabnett and wife, Brooke, of Dallas, and Maggie Glaspie and husband, James, of The Woodlands. Chris is also survived by his four grandchildren, Ben and Max Hughes and Blaire and Sloane Inabnett, who call him "Pop"; his older brother, William "Bill" Inabnett of Daingerfield; and his cousins, Sally Engstrom of Fort Worth, Susan Cocanougher of Decatur and Sandra Hammond of Denton. Chris's love for his family was evident, and he was happiest when his family gathered together.
Chris was a lifelong fan of the Dallas Cowboys and New York Yankees. He also enjoyed music (particularly Bob Dylan), playing and watching golf, reading, following the financial markets and frequent phone conversations with his brother, Bill.
A private graveside service limited to immediate family was held in Decatur on Jan. 21, 2021. Donations in Chris's memory may be made to the Decatur Education Foundation: decatureducationfoundation.org/donate.