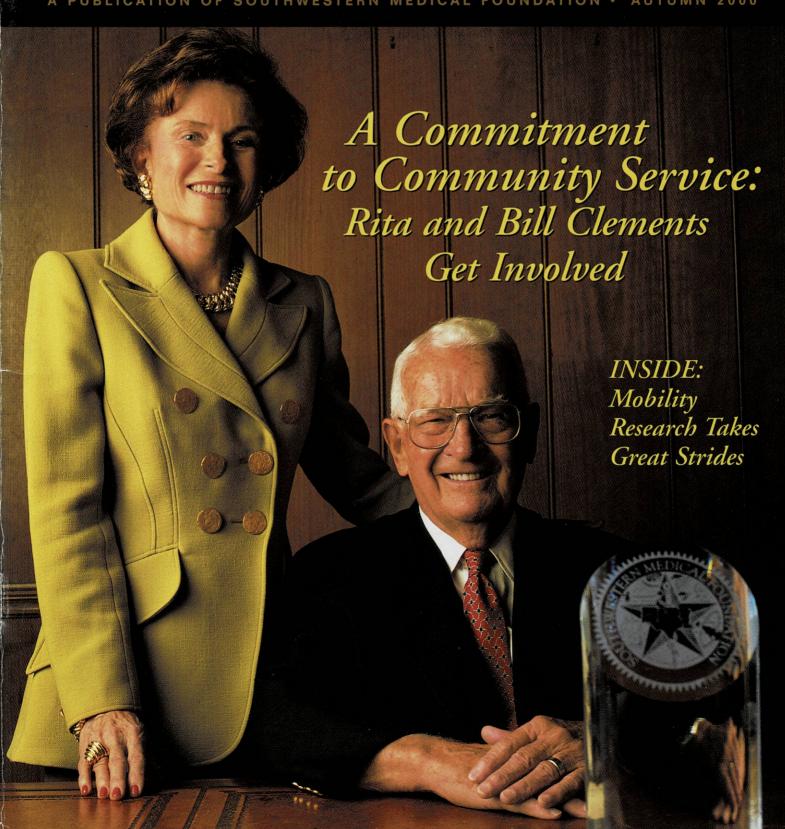
PERSTERN MEDICAL PROBLEM

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A Commitment to Community Service:
Rita and Bill
Clements Get
Involved

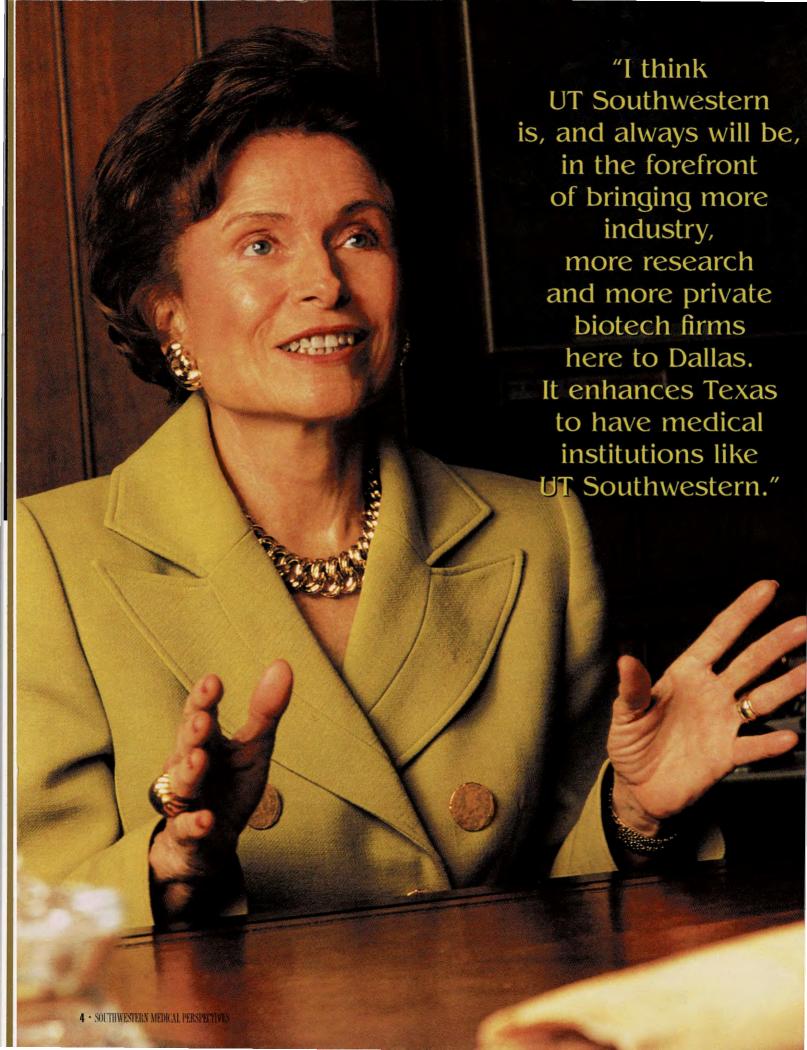
This year's recipients
of the Foundation's
Community Service
Award step forward when
there is work to be done.

by Mindy Baxter

FTER DECADES OF government and community service, former Texas Governor William (Bill) P. Clements Jr. and his wife, Rita Crocker Clements, are as closely associated with the state as long-horns and a lone star. But that was not always the case. A desire to make positive changes by getting involved and actively working on solutions led this former drilling contractor and his wife to leadership positions. This year's recipients of Southwestern Medical Foundation's Charles Cameron Sprague Community Service Award, Gov. and Mrs. Clements have dedicated their lives to making a difference.

Before becoming involved in Texas polirics, Gov. Clements was active in the oil industry and named president of the International Association of Drilling Contractors. Later, he served his country as a member of the Blue Ribhon Defense Panel and as Deputy Secretary of Defense for the U.S. Department of Defense. Soon afterward, the straight-talking drilling contractor decided he could help his home state by running for governor.





Prospects were not very good for a Republican running for governor in Texas at that time. But he and his wife decided to tackle the challenge by trying to visit every county in Texas — something never before done in a gubernatorial race. Mrs. Clements got into a station wagon and went south and east, and the governor headed north and west.

Hot summer days and chilly receptions from many Democratic mayors, ciry managers and county commissioners made the tour a real chore. However, Gov. and Mrs. Clements would not have done it any other way. They met a lor of wonderful people and learned how diverse the state really was. The result of their action astounded doubters — Bill Clements became the first freely elected Republican governor in Texas.

That attitude of rolling up their sleeves and getting involved has been evident in their work on behalf of UT Southwestern. And that is why Gov. and Mrs. Clements have been awarded the Foundation's Community Service Award.

Named for Dr. Charles Sprague, president emeritus of The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas and chairman emeritus of the Foundation, the Community Service Award recognizes individuals who have provided significant support to the fields of health care, medical education and medical research.

Gov. and Mrs. Clements have certainly played an important role. In addition to personal philanthropic contributions — a multimillion-dollar endowment to support the William P. Clements Jr. Scholar in Medical Research is but the latest example — they have been invaluable supporters by influencing public policy. As Texas governor from 1979 to 1983 and 1987 to 1991, Bill Clements proved that people with backgrounds outside the political arena could make a difference. And as a member of the UT System Board

of Regents, Rita Clements has been a leader in advancing medical research and education.



You were born and raised in Dallas, so you've watched UT Southwestern grow all these years. How important is it that Dallas has an institution like UT Southwestern?

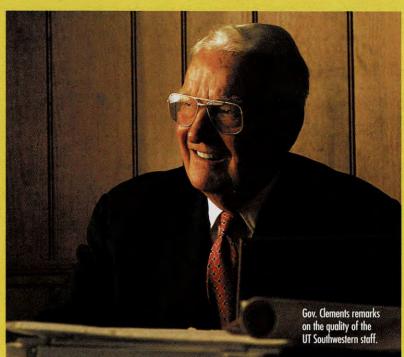
Gov. Clements: I think that it's tetribly important. It is an institution now that has world recognition — not just U.S. recognition. And it's a tremendous asset not just to the Dallas community, but to the entire state and, in its own way, to the United States. It's one of the real jewels of our community, without question.

The staff at the school is exemplary. I am sure that other medical institutions envy the staff at UT Southwestern. We're blessed to have these people who come from all over the country. They've been vigorously recruited.

Mrs. Clements: Since I've heen serving on the hoard of the UT System — with Southwestern being one of nine academic and

six medical institutions — I will tell you Southwestern is an absolute star. When all the presidents of our medical institutions gather, Kern Wildenthal stands out, and they listen to him. He took the lead in getting Proposition 17 passed to allow us to make more of the PUF (Permanent University Funds) available. He is a true leader among our group.

Mrs. Clements, from your perspective as a member of the UT System Board of Regents, how important are medical institutions to the state? How important are medical research and education to the state of Texas?



Mrs. Clements: I think it's extremely important. And in addition to treating patients and doing research, they're teaching students, just like our undergraduate academic institutions. For instance, I think UT Southwestern is, and will be, in the forefront of bringing more industry, more research and more private biotech firms here to Dallas. It enhances Texas to have medical institutions like UT Southwestern.

How do you think the business community and the medical community work together?

Mrs. Clements: Certainly, a lot of our top businesspeople in Dallas have stepped forward and have given significant sums to UT Southwestern. Unfortunately, the state funds that UT Southwestern receives are diminishing every two years, and so they depend more and more on research grants — which they've been successful in getting — as well as private contributions. The Dallas business leadership has strongly supported Southwesten.

Gov. Clements: I was fortunate enough to he a younger member of the group that worked to recruit Dr. Charles Sprague as

dean of the medical school. Believe me, that medical school wouldn't exist, and it certainly wouldn't have prospered, without the Dallas community — and especially the Dallas business community — getting behind it. It takes money.

The interest, the motivation and the commitment are required. But the grease in that axle, so to speak, is the money. It's a terribly expensive enterprise, and the Dallas community has been extremely generous in that regard. And it will continue, I'm sure of it.

The medical center is to be commended and congratulated because they have become part of that relationship, and they have nurtured that relationship and paid attention to it, not neglected it, like so often happens with academics.

What do you think the state's role should be at this point in supporting UT Southwestern?

Gov. Clements: I don't think there's any question that the state definitely has a financial role to play in a star institution like UT Southwestern. They have other obligations, of course. Yet the state and university each have a direct responsibility to ensure that the stature and the quality are continually enriched. They can't neglect an institution just hecause it has strong local support. It needs strong state support, too.

Mrs. Clements: Well, UT Southwestern was on the short end of appropriations for our six medical institutions. I guarantee some of the legislative leaders are now aware of that. And they are going to be reminded of that constantly next spring.

Gov. Clements: I want to emphasize what Rita's saying. I'm fearful that too often we in Dallas have taken the medical school for granted and felt like local support was sufficient and that we didn't really need to worry about participating in the state appropriations process. That's a bad mistake. I think that area of endeavor has been neglected. Through the Dallas leadership and the representation we have from this community, both in the House and in the Senate, we can bring enormous influence on the Legislature if we go about it the right way.

Both of you have donated money to the medical center, as well as time and thought. Do you plan to continue supporting UT Southwestern?

Gov. Clements: First of all, I think it's a tremendous asset nor only to this community, but also to the state of Texas. Just recently, one of the outstanding members of a family in Saudi

Arabia came here because of the staff and the facilities we have here in Dallas. So it has not only a national reputation, but it's also getting an international reputation.

It deserves everybody's help; it deserves their participation — not only financially, but also active participation. I think the Dallas community in general is well aware of their responsibility in this regard and are proud of the institution. They take great pride in it.

Individually and together, you both have been enormously generous

to a number of different organizations with your time and resources. What made you decide to be generous with the community in so many different areas?

Gov. Clements: I was born and raised in Dallas. The people that I respected and the people that the community recognized were people who involved themselves in the community and gave not only of themselves hut their money, their talents and their resources.

As a youngster, I was impressed with this. Why do these people do these things? It's because we want a better community. And it's very much a part of whar makes Dallas, Dallas. I have enough contacts elsewhere to know that that kind of giving spirit doesn't exist in these other places.

Mrs. Clements: For example, two of the organizations I've heen involved in, the United Way and the Salvation Army, have been supported by the banks and big companies in Dallas. In recent years, they've had to branch out and get more broad-based support, so the United Way came up with the idea of creating the de Tocqueville Society. We contacted businesspeople as they were nearing retirement age and got them personally involved so they would continue to give to the United Way. The same thing has been true for the William Booth Society for the Salvation Army. So instead of depending only on companies for charitable support, they've gotten more individuals involved.

Gov. Clements: People in the Dallas community who made money want to share. It's different than in older communities like Philadelphia or New York. In this new kind of community, people have set a pattern. The younger generation comes along, and they follow the pattern. They are initiated into that kind of giving, and it comes easily and naturally to them.

That's what makes Dallas different — it's a public-spirited community. I think it's a unique place not only in the United States, but anywhere. We have a different kind of a community here.

