

Mary Frances McClure Burleson, 1953

Mary Frances McClure graduated from Highland Park High School in 1953. While in high school she was active on the Bagpipe staff, a member of Quill and Scroll, and a Linz Pin recipient. After graduation she attended SMU where she was studying history when she interrupted her studies to marry Rufus C. Burleson. She and Rufus were married for over 50 years before he passed away in 2009. Many years later she was personally presented her diploma by SMU President R. Gerald Turner.

In 1958 Mary Frances went to work as a part time receptionist for Ebby Halliday. Today she is president and CEO of Ebby Halliday Companies, the 12th largest residential real estate company in the country. Under her leadership, the company reached a sales volume of approximately \$5 billion annually and has become one of the most respected real estate companies in the world.

Mary Frances has been a very civic minded member of the Dallas community. She has received numerous honors and awards not only in her chosen field of real estate, but also in recognition of her involvement in other organizations. She was named Realtor of the Year in Texas in 1999, was the first Texan to be named to the Realtor PAC Hall of Fame in 2005. She served as a leader in the Texas Realtors Governmental Affairs Committee for more than 15 years and is a member of the NAR Strategic Planning and Research Committee. Through her ongoing commitment to such groups as the Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce, International Women's Forum, and the Dallas Citizens Council and as a broker member of the Texas Real Estate Commission, she has helped make Dallas a better place to live, work and enjoy life. She and Rufus enjoyed raising championship Boxers in the kennel that they owned and managed. Marlbur Boxers have won many prestigious awards both nationally and internationally.