

A Special Tribute

Many people have given of themselves to make UMANT what it is today. There are four such people who are no longer with us, but deserve special recognition for their contributions to UMANT and professional management.

Linda Keithly served UMANT in a variety of ways. She served as an officer and is noted for the strides she made to improve communication among members; particularly the changes she made to the newsletter. Linda offered unwavering support to UMANT for several years. As a memorial to Linda, the North Central Texas Council of Governments established the **Linda Keithly Award for Women in Public Management** in 1986. The award honors Linda's dedicated professionalism during her 17 years of service to the NCTCOG. The award goes to women recognized for their integrity, dignity, poise, loyalty, commitment, and dedication as public servants.

Joy Sansom was a member of UMANT, a participant in NCTCOG's Urban Fellowship Program, and an intern for the City of Euless. Joy was working toward a Master of Urban Affairs degree when she died of complications related to lupus in July of 1985. Joy was a person who believed in giving of herself to the community. Every year since 1986, UMANT has presented a **Joy Sansom Mentor Award** to an individual who supports the growth and development of local government professionals. Those receiving the award are recognized for their mentorship of UMANT members, their leadership in public management, and their commitment to and support of UMANT, which is often demonstrated by communicating to current and prospective members the benefits UMANT offers.

William "King" Cole served as an officer in UMANT and is noted throughout Texas for his mentorship of young management professionals. The Texas Municipal League and Texas City Management Association have recognized his contribution to professional management through the naming of the **William "King" Cole Workshop**. This is an extensive professional development workshop geared toward younger management professionals, such as municipal assistants. The workshop is a two-part program offered each year in various locations around the state.

William J. Pitstick lived the American dream. Raised amid the humble country-side of Nebraska no one could have imagined that he would grow up to become the first executive director of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) which now includes the largest inland metropolis in the nation.

As he grew into a young man, Bill had a passion about a sense of fairness and professionalism and yearned to be a part of the new reform movement of professional public managers replacing inept ward politics in city government. His travels took him to junior college in California and U.S. Navy training in Texas and abroad. After World War II, Bill returned to the Lone Star State where, in 1948, he received his bachelor degree in civil engineering from the University of Texas. In 1950, Bill Pitstick began his

career as a public servant in Kerrville, Texas, with the Texas State Department of Health under the title of environmental engineer. His first city management opportunity came three years later when Bill was asked to fill the position of City Manager in Kerrville. In 1956, he moved to his second public administrator position as City Manager of Arlington, where he stayed for eight years and saw tremendous growth and expansion. In 1963, Bill became City Manager in Lubbock and stayed for 3 years, but was lured back to the Dallas/Fort Worth area in 1966 in an effort to bring a cooperative spirit and needed regional planning in a highly competitive environment between the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth and the many growing suburbs. In October 1966, Bill was hired as the first employee as the Executive Director of the COG and stayed for 26 years retiring as the “COG Father” in 1992.

Beyond his passion for his family, friends, and public administration, Bill Pitstick strived to be a mentor to support and encourage young professionals. According to his family, he could always be found interacting with people much younger than himself. He was always young at heart. And this is why we honor him today. As one of the founding fathers of Urban Management Assistants of North Texas (UMANT), he was able to fulfill many of his life’s dreams, including that of providing an environment where young professionals could perfect their skills.

Thank you, Bill Pitstick, for setting the example, for living your dreams, and for your dedication to the field of public administration.

