

Hilmar Moore has been the mayor of Richmond for 60 years

Get to Know...

Hilmar Moore

RICHMOND MAYOR

By Heather Lowrie

A As the longest serving Mayor in the state, Hilmar Moore knows a thing or two about perseverance and public service.

Mayor of Richmond, Hilmar Moore, has presided over this community since 1949 when Richmond had just 3,300 residents. As the longest serving mayor in the United States (60 years), he shares some insights, advice, and details of his career in public service. Mayor Moore is truly a public service legend in this community and it is a great honor to be able to call him Mayor.

Did you always want to be the Mayor?

I wanted to be a lawyer and lacked 1 ½ years to finish University of Texas Law School when I went in service in US Army Air Corps in 1942 and didn't return until 1949. While at Richmond rotary, I was asked to fill the unexpired term of Richmond Mayor and was sworn in at 4:00 that afternoon and have been there since. It is a part time job and I am a full-time, life-long cattle rancher.

Tell us about your family.

I raised three fine boys and my youngest, Jack Moore, is an attorney in Richmond. My oldest, Hilmar G. Moore, Jr., is a licensed physical therapist in Austin, after a career as a PhD educator at the college level. My middle son, Philip Moore, was killed in a car accident in 1977 while working with me. Their mother, Hallie Kelley Pearson Moore died of cancer in 1982 after 40+ years of marriage and I have been married to Richmond native, Evalyn Wendt Moore, since December 28, 1984.

What is your favorite spot in Richmond?

I love my home, but I'm partial to the Moore Home and Museum. It was my grandfather's home. It was also named one of the best small museums in Texas. Richmond is so deep in history.

What is your greatest challenge?

Doing the most good for the most people with the limited money we have.

What advice would you give someone running for public office?

Never promise anything you can't do and never lie because it will come back to haunt you.

Does your job ever get old?

It's never boring and after 60 years, I still enjoy being Mayor of Richmond.

What is one historic fact you would want people to know about Richmond?

During the entire Civil Rights Movement Era, Richmond never experienced a single sit-in or demonstration because the leaders of all factions sat down together and worked out our differences without any outside help or interference.

Do you have normal business hours or are you always on call?

City Staff knows I am available when needed, but have no desire to micro-manage any part of city government.

Who is your role model?

My father, John M. Moore, Jr., was County Judge 1933-1936 and brought Fort Bend County out of debt. He built the annex to the Court House and was Mayor of Richmond from 1937-1940, built City Hall, and replaced the 1925 Model T fire truck with a 1937 Dodge that's still in service.

How do you handle difficult decisions?

Decisions have never bothered me either in my personal, business, or city dealings. I know I will make mistakes, but as soon as I have all the important information to make a decision, I am ready to make it. The worst thing you can do is agonize over a decision so long that the time for a good decision is past.

What do you think of retirement?

I believe when you retire you are ready to die. The voters will retire me unless my health prevents my carrying out my duties.


How would you like to be remembered?

As a good citizen and supporter of the City of Richmond with a well run city government.

Do You Have Any Final Words to Share?

In my 60 years as Mayor, I have been blessed with two outstanding City Managers, Keith Crawford and Glen Gilmore. By staying out of their way, and letting them do the things they know how to do (and I don't) they have made the City of Richmond a wonderful City and great place to live and I am eternally grateful for both of them. Also, we have been blessed with many great, loyal employees.
SLM

HEATHER LOWRIE is a kindergarten teacher and mother of two. She is married to her high school sweetheart, James. She is a freelance writer and author of The Inspired Wife who enjoys the opportunity to encourage people through her writing.



**RICHMOND
MAYOR
Hilmar Moore**




CLAIM TO FAME
*The longest serving mayor
in the U.S.*

SERVING SINCE
1949

CAREER
Lifelong cattle rancher

MARRIED TO
Evalyn Wendt Moore

FAMILY *Father of three sons
Hilmar, Phillip, and Jack.*



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