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**Don Corley Sr.(1932 - 2017)**

Don Corley Sr., insurance executive and international big game hunter, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2017, at home in Fort Worth, with family and friends at his side. Memorial service: A private memorial service was held in celebration of Don's life. Memorials: Contributions in his memory may be directed to the Wounded Warrior Project, or [charity of choice](#) . Don was born on July 9, 1932, in Fort Worth to Oland and Mildred Corley. He grew up in the River Oaks area, where he attended North Side High School. Fort Worth was always Don's home except for his early adulthood when he traveled the United States, Europe and South America, competing in RCA rodeos. He volunteered for the U.S. Naval Reserve, serving aboard the aircraft carriers USS Wasp and Leyte. He parlayed his strong work ethic into a successful career in the health insurance industry. In later years he and his wife, Linda, managed their own sales and marketing company. Don's enthusiasm for big game hunting evolved from a profound love of nature. He became a lifelong game conservation advocate, supporting wildlife preservation and management through sport hunting fees and fundraising. Don believed a passion for hunting requires dedicated commitment to protecting species and wildlife habitat. The recipient of many awards and accolades, he was at the zenith of his hunting career in 1986 when he received the Dallas Safari Club Outstanding Hunting Achievement Award. The world's foremost one-of-a-kind Corley Collection, consisting of all thirty-one species of North American Big Game animals, each preserved life-size, and each meeting Safari Club International record book requirements, was donated to the American National Fish and Wildlife Museum in Springfield, Mo., and is on public display at Bass Pro Shops in Grapevine. His legacy as a wildlife enthusiast and benefactor to hunting organizations was established by his diligent solicitation of substantial in-kind donations and hunts as funding sources for their conservation programs. He served as a special advisor to the desert bighorn sheep program for the Game Department of Mexico, as well as consultant to the White Mountain Apache Game and Fish Department in developing its world renowned trophy elk program. A life member of SCI, he was a founder and vice president of Valle de Mexico, a chapter based in Mexico City. He also was a NRA Life Member, member and past director of Dallas Safari Club, and a member of Boone and Crockett Club and the Wild Sheep Foundation. A true champion of wildlife and hunting, he enjoyed sharing his adventures with countless friends, business associates, physically challenged children and disabled veterans. Don was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Julie Allen; and son, Don Lee Corley Jr. Survivors: Wife of 35 years, Linda; son, Rocky; daughter, Gina Emerton and son-in-law, Dave; daughter-in-law, Sandra Corley; brother, Mike Corley; sister, Donna Dean; stepmother, Clara Foulke; five grandchildren, Brent Wicker, Justin Corley, Nicole Dawson, Tiffany Emerton and Austin Emerton; and special children by choice, Austin and Garrett Childers and Zachary Davis.

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