



ROBERT G "HAP" FRY JR.

EMBRACING MIDTOWN LIVING



By Sarah Mitchell

Robert G "Hap" Fry Jr. and daughter, Ashley

Robert G "Hap" Fry Jr.'s affinity for Utica Square began over 60 years ago when the then 14-year-old went to former clothing store Bentworth LTD and learned how to tie a bow tie for a junior high dance. As a well-known and prominent Tulsa divorce attorney, bow ties have remained a staple of Fry's attire and his loyalty to Utica Square also has continued to grow over the years.

Fry and his 8-year-old Aussiedoodle, Badger, have lived near Utica Square since 2012. The two are regular fixtures in the well-known shopping center, as Fry can be seen walking his loyal companion multiple times per day. In fact, Fry said it's not uncommon for people to bypass him and move straight to greeting Badger.

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“He’s kind of like the mayor of Utica Square,” Fry said of Badger. “Everyone wants to say hi to him and some have even requested his autograph. One time when I was walking Badger and it started raining, a lady stopped and helped Badger and I and gave us a ride home. The people in the Utica Square area are incredibly friendly and helpful. The only place we could really use in the area would be another Petty’s, then my world would be perfect.”

Fry and Badger’s relationship began in 2012, shortly after his wife Sarah died. “When my wife, Sarah, passed away, my children encouraged me to get a dog,” explained Fry. “He gave me a sense of purpose. I truly believe he saved my life, and he definitely has my heart.”

Living near Utica Square is important to Fry and one of the reasons he moved to the neighborhood. “Being able to walk to Utica Square is great,” shared Fry. “The neighborhood also has a lot of unique professionals and individuals. We appear to be quite competitive when it comes to Christmas lights, which is a plus for the whole neighborhood.”

A Tulsa native, Fry gained much of his inspiration from his mother Rena Mae White. After serving as the Senior Class President and graduating from Tulsa Edison in 1960, Fry attended Michigan State University on a full wrestling scholarship and



ultimately graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1964. “My mother had to drop out of college, but when I was attending Michigan State, she went back to school and got the first Library Science Degree issued by the University of Tulsa three months before I obtained my degree,” shared Fry. “I am very proud and in awe of her doing this.”

After Michigan State, Fry attended the University of Tulsa College of Law where he received his Juris Doctorate in 1967. “I also had the pleasure of being a clerk for the Honorable Robert D Simms while in law school,” shared Fry. “I was able to observe numerous jury and non-jury trials.” Upon passing the Bar, Fry became a trial lawyer and ultimately the Chief Public Defender for

Robert G "Hap" Fry Jr. and Robert G "Hap" Fry III in Portugal



Fry also enjoys numismatics, or the collection of currency. "I love the history associated with many coins and was even fortunate enough to give the background of some of my coins to one of my grandson's elementary school classes in New Jersey," said Fry. "My youngest grandson, Clarke, has expressed that he would like to look at some of my coins as well."

Tulsa County. He has devoted more than 35 years to the areas of divorce and child custody litigation.

As a decorated attorney, Fry was recently selected for inclusion in the leading legal publication, Best Lawyers®, 2020 listing for best lawyers. This selection marks the 10th consecutive year that he has been recognized for his work in family law and domestic relations.

Though he has had a remarkable career, Fry has found plenty of hobbies and interests to keep him busy when he's not hard at work. Some of Fry's favorite pastimes include traveling to and watching Oklahoma football games. He has been a fan of Oklahoma football since he was a little boy when he attended games with his father. One of his favorite memories was being on the sidelines for the 2000 OU-Texas game which Oklahoma won 63-14. His son was a reporter at the game for a newspaper he worked for at the time and Fry was his photographer.

Another important part of his life is being a part of the Builder's Class at First United Methodist Church where he has been a member since 1977. He stated, "All of the members are such great people, and I am fortunate to have them in my life. We lean and rely on each other in good times and in bad." Additionally, Fry is very active with his fraternity, Sigma Chi.

A father of five and grandfather to 10, Fry beams with great pride when discussing his family. His children live in New Jersey, Texas and Colorado, while his grandchildren are spread out even further – residing in California, Florida, New Jersey, Texas and Switzerland. "I am very proud of all my children and grandchildren and what they have been able to accomplish," Fry said.

In addition to spending time with Badger and his family, Fry also frequently spends time with friend, Sharon Miller. "We love dancing and traveling together, and we've been to Ireland, Belgium, and The Netherlands," he explained. "We are looking forward to and currently planning a European cruise!"

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