

## Houston Business Icon, Mr. Hank Wiggins of Hank's Ice Cream Dies at Age 74

Written by Jeffrey L. Boney  
Friday, 06 January 2012 00:00

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*Forward Times Staff Writer*

Mr. Hank Wiggins, business icon and owner of one of Houston's most cherished businesses in Houston, Hank's Ice Cream, died on New Years Eve at Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital. He was 74.

Mr. Wiggins passed away after having spent several months in the hospital after falling and suffering a spinal cord injury in May.

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Hank's Ice Cream is a staple in the Houston community and was a favorite of many Houstonians, including many celebrities.

With his over 100 signature recipes, Mr. Hank, as he was affectionately called, provided the Houston community with a craving for ice cream that rivaled other name brand ice cream makers across the country.

Unlike many successful business owners, it was nothing to find Mr. Hank behind the counter serving his customers and enjoying the look on his patrons face as they consumed his wonderful creation.

Who couldn't help but fall in love with their number one seller, butter pecan ice cream.

Mr. Hank started Hank's Ice Cream on South Main in 1985, along with his wife, Okemah.

Born in Caldwell, Texas in 1937, he married Okemah in 1962 after attending Prairie View A&M

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University. She has been a fixture in the business alongside him until death.

A sign is affixed to the front of the door at the store which reads, "In loving memory of Hank, the store will be closed this week."

Hank's Ice Cream plans to reopen its doors next week.

### **Funeral Service:**

**Funeral Services will be held for Mr. Henry "Hank" Wiggins Jr. on Friday, January 6 at Brentwood Baptist Church**

**Viewing: 10am**

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**Service:** 12noon

**Dr. Joe Samuel Ratliff** - Officiating

**Interment:** Houston Memorial Garden {jcomments on}