

# Walt Powell Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is a memorial to Walt Powell set up by his father, Walter Connally Powell. Walt was taken from us much too early on June 4, 2013 at the age of 33. For those of you that did not know Walt I want to share just a bit of Walt's life.

Flix Brewhouse in Round Rock, Texas, cofounded by Walt, was the initial and only First-Run Cinema Craft Brewery in the world. At the time of his death, Walt was planning the national roll-out of several additional Flix Brewhouse locations. I am sure that there is currently another Flix Brewhouse in Des Moines, Iowa. Thus, his legacy continues!

During his career, Walt was a fixture at brew festivals and events around the country and was an active member of numerous craft beer social and trade groups. Walt's idea of a great European vacation was visiting Trappist Brewing Monasteries in Belgium and being fluent in French he was able to glean many secrets which assisted him with his favorite beers, the sweet, Belgian brews!

I only met Walt once yet that brief encounter convinced me he was going to be a pillar in the craft brewing world. I only wish we could have had him with us much longer.

Walt's dad wants this scholarship to go to someone who really has a love for brewing and I am sure Walt is pleased with this fantastic opportunity that will benefit his colleagues! For more look here: <http://wcfish.tributes.com/show/Walter-Connally-Powell-95959434>

## **Requirements:**

Membership in good standing in MBAA – District Texas with a passion for BREWING!

## **Application:**

Submit a comprehensive essay describing how passionate you are about the brewing industry, how you became involved in the brewing industry, why you love brewing, and be sure to highlight any accomplishments in the industry.

Either within the body of the essay or separately please include a listing of your history in the brewing industry. Suggested topics to cover are as follows:

- Past and current brewing jobs.
- Brewery and/or festival volunteering.
- Brewing events attended, volunteered, or worked.
- Brewing coursework or general beer coursework.
- Homebrewing experience, club memberships, etc.
- Experience as a brewing/beer educator for both colleagues and or the general public.

Submit applications to [scholarships@districtexasmbaa.com](mailto:scholarships@districtexasmbaa.com)

Applications are due by Feb 1 and will be announced at the Spring Meeting.



Walter Connally Powell Jr. (Walt)  
December 26, 1979 – June 4, 2013

Walter Connally Powell, Jr. (Walt), 33, widely known and admired in both the hospitality industry and craft beer community, died unexpectedly of natural causes Tuesday, June 4, 2013 in Austin, Texas. He was born on December 26, 1979 in Tyler, Texas, the only child of Walter Connally Powell and Bolivia C. Powell. At the time of death Walt was Vice President of Operations, Flix Entertainment Group, where he co-developed and operated the Flix Brewhouse and HomeField Grill concepts in Round Rock, Texas.

In addition to both parents, Walt is survived by special friend Heather L. Klein, and a host of other family members as well as many friends. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Delbert L. Powell, Martha Ann Connally Cassel and Joe B. Cassel, and B.L. and Lottie

Belle Collins.

Growing up in Tyler, this future beer eminence served Christ Episcopal Church as a devoted member of the youth choir and appeared as a child actor in local civic theater productions. As a youngster, Walt was a skilled Ventriloquist and Magician. At age 11, while a student at All Saints Episcopal School, Walt attended Space Camp junior astronaut training at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville Alabama, where he won the award for most outstanding cadet.

Active in sports, Walt was a fearless black diamond skier on the slopes of Crested Butte, Colorado and a skilled marksman. A lifelong animal lover, his shooting targets were mostly on paper. He also was an avid fly fisherman, tying his own flies. In 1988 Walt was a Page to Queen Lora Beth Clyde in the Texas Rose Festival. Later, he also was an Escort in the Rose Festival. Walt was active in showing dogs in Conformation and Junior Showmanship.

Precocious in business even in high school, he was promoted to general manager of a \$1 million sales volume Domino's Pizza at age 18. Walt graduated from Bending Oaks High School in Dallas and attended North Texas State University. He was interested in continuing his higher education in the field of Music, but the restaurant bug had bit, and Walt elected to pursue a career in the hospitality industry.

He held a number of positions of increasing responsibility, including area training manager for 60 Papa John's stores in the DFW metroplex and assistant general manager of a Flying Saucer, where his craft beer hobby began. Walt joined Main Event family entertainment centers, and

while in his 20's was promoted to general manager of their flagship location in northwest Austin, responsible for some 200 employees.

After helming two other large family entertainment center concepts, Incredible Pizza in Euless, Texas, and Brunswick Zone xL in Algonquin, Illinois, Walt returned to Texas in early 2010 to take the reins of two development stage concepts. He was the opening general manager for HomeField Grill, bringing not just a popular sports restaurant but a bit of haute cuisine and beer appreciation to the Round Rock community. As co-founder of Flix Brewhouse, which existed only as a vague idea when Walt took charge, he brought to life the only first-run cinema microbrewery in the world and made it an over-the-top success. Creative and innovative, Walt conceived of Firkin Fest, which brought together a dozen craft breweries from across Texas for an amazing day of great beer and great fellowship. At the time of death Walt was deeply involved in planning the national roll-out of several additional Flix Brewhouse locations, and his DNA will surely live forever in the fabric of all Flix theaters.

Walt was a founder and administrator for Rate Beer, an internet community of lovers and critics of fine beer. He was a fixture for years until his death at beer festivals and events across the country, and was an active member of numerous craft beer social and trade groups. His passion for beer was greatest for sweet, malty Belgian brews. Walt's idea of a superb trip to Europe was visiting Trappist monasteries in Belgium, and using his fluency in French to learn the secrets of their ancient brewing techniques.

Mentor, confidante and quipster, Walt delighted in bringing people together and making good times flow. He loved beer, music and laughs. He was one of a kind — an iconoclast who loved knowing others were happy. His sense of humor was epic, wise and frequently self-inflicted. If the ability to make — and take — a joke is a sign of intelligence, Walt had an IQ right up there with Einstein. If Walt pranked you, you were lucky. But when matters were serious, Walt always thought issues through, and had the courage to go toe-to-toe with anyone in the marketplace of ideas.

Walt delighted in shock and surprise but no one was more reliable. His generosity and ability to connect deeply with those around him was legendary. He wasn't a big man physically, but he had a giant heart, and everyone he touched knew they had met someone special.

Beer savant extraordinaire, hospitality executive, musician and music lover, amateur chef and serious foodie, world traveler, writer, debater, marksman, athlete, an intellectually curious and creative thinker, multi-lingual raconteur, practical joker of the first order, a lover of people, animals and life, Walt Powell, the eternal optimist, was a Renaissance Man for the new millennium.