



Hunter Ellis Babin (m.1.10.1.1)

MARCH 18, 1932 – FEBRUARY 18, 2023

Hunter Ellis Babin passed away in New Orleans, Louisiana on February 18, 2023 at the age of 90. He is survived by his beloved wife of eight years Mary Folsie Hillery Babin. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 57 years Catherine Chapman Babin.

He was the father of Catherine (Kitsie) Babin Garland (Bobby) of Richmond, Virginia, and Laura Babin Charbonnet (Kenny) of Memphis, Tennessee. He is also survived by his step-children Mary Margaret (Mamie) Hillery and Julian (Jubi) Swoop Hillery, Jr. (Jeannie) of New Orleans, and Isabel Hillery McCluskey (George) of Columbus, Georgia. Other survivors include his five grandchildren Hunter Garland, Anne Garland, Adrian Charbonnet, Rainey Charbonnet and Sonny Charbonnet; ten step-grandchildren Franci, Hillery, Vivian, Julian III, Andrew, Kathleen (Beetles), Will, Milton, Drew, and Isabel; and five step-great grandchildren. Hunter is also survived by his sister-in-law Louise Chapman Hoffman.

Hunter was born in New Orleans on March 18, 1932, the only child of Phoebe Isidora Ellis Babin and Duke Oliver Babin. He graduated from New Orleans Academy and Tulane University, where he was a member of the NROTC and Beta Theta Pi fraternity. He was also a graduate of the School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin. After graduating from Tulane in 1955, he was commissioned as an officer in the Navy and went to flight training school in Pensacola, Florida. He became a naval aviator and served for several years as a carrier based anti-sub helicopter pilot. He then served as an officer at the Whitney Bank for 30 years. He was an honorary life member of the Boston Club, the Stratford Club, and the Southern Yacht Club and a member of several carnival organizations. He was a member of St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church for 50 years.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Memorial Service at Lake Lawn Metairie Cemetery on Wednesday, March 1, 2023. Visitation at 1:00, followed by the service at 2:00. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church, the Louisiana SPCA, or a charity of your choice.

From the Blue Book:

Hunter Babin graduated from New Orleans Academy and in 1955 received a degree in Business from Tulane University. While at Tulane he was a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity, and of the Naval R.O.T.C. program, graduating as an ensign. He was then stationed in Pensacola, and received his Naval Aviator's wings, and flew helicopters. It was when he came home to New Orleans from Pensacola for weekend visits that he and Catherine Chapman met. After their marriage they lived in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, and Norfolk, Virginia.

When Hunter's tour of duty with the Navy was over in 1958 (he was discharged as a lieutenant) they moved back to New Orleans, and Hunter Babin started at the Whitney Bank as a management trainee. He became assistant vice-president in charge of the City Bank Branch of the Whitney. He was a graduate of the Wisconsin Graduate School of Banking (1968); a member of the American Institute of Banking; a Junior Achievement adviser; has been co-chairman of annual giving at St. Martin's School; member of the board of the Members' Council, Chamber of Commerce; member of the Louisiana Commandery, Military Order of Foreign Wars; board member of the Garden District Association; and member of the Boston, Stratford, Essex, and the New Orleans Lawn Tennis clubs. His hobbies include spending time at their weekend retreat near Poplarville, Mississippi, duck hunting, fishing, gardening, bridge, and cooking. Hunter retired from Whitney Bank in December 1988.