

OBITUARIES

JESSE WADE DRIVER**Architect's work included Plaza of Americas, Reunion Arena**

By **TY ALLISON**
Staff Writer

Thousands pass by Jesse Wade Driver's work daily. As an architect, he made his mark downtown with Reunion Arena and Plaza of the Americas.

Mr. Driver, 70, died Sept. 13 of lung failure at Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas. Services were Saturday at Northway Christian Church.

He was inspired by architecture at an early age, said his daughter Dana Rodgers-Driver of Dallas. Some of his relatives were in the oil industry and lived in fine houses. As a young boy, he would visit and admire their homes' grandeur.

"He loved the symmetry and structure of buildings," Mrs. Rodgers-Driver said. "He loved all the arts — music, painting ..."

Mr. Driver was born Sept. 12, 1934, in Terrell.



He played high school football for the Terrell Tigers and was inducted into the Terrell High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2000. After graduating from high school in 1953, he attended Texas A&M University on a scholarship. A knee injury his freshman year ended his football career, but he remained at A&M, graduating in 1958 with a degree in architecture.

He began his career in the early

1960s as a project engineer at HKS Inc. During the 1980s, Mr. Driver's work helped earn the firm a national reputation, Mrs. Rodgers-Driver said. He ended his professional career in 1994, at HKS.

In more than three decades at the firm, Mr. Driver guided more than \$900 million of construction projects around the world, she said. He was a loyal Aggie and hired hundreds of people from Texas A&M to work for the company.

In addition to his daughter Dana, Mr. Driver is survived by his wife, Mary Emily Driver of Dallas; daughter Dena Driver of New York City; sons Jesse Driver III and Mark Driver, both of Dallas; and 13 grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to a charity of choice.

E-mail tallison@dallasnews.com

SKEETER DAVIS