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BENJAMIN DUDLEY TARLTON DOUGHERTY 1923-1978

Historical Narrative for Texas Historical Subject Marker Application

Presented to

Bee County Historical Commission – Beeville, Texas

and

Texas Historical Commission – Austin, Texas

I. CONTEXT

In the quarter-century following World War II American society experienced profound social, economic, and political changes. America changed from a segregated and isolationist country to a more diverse and inclusive society, reflecting the shifting demographics in the workplace and beyond, while grappling with the emerging problems of the nuclear age. Nowhere did the winds of change blow more strongly than in Texas and the American South.

A humanitarian with progressive views, Benjamin Dudley Tarlton Dougherty was not content to remain silent after the war. As an active conservationist, rancher, oil producer, journalist, and author, he was an elected public servant whose experience as a decorated combat veteran and student of history led him to speak out boldly against complacency on the political and social issues of his era. Mr. Dougherty's keen intellect, wide-ranging interests, and commitment to public service were hailed by many of his contemporaries, and later shown to be of enduring benefit to his state and country. He sponsored legislation which was profoundly forward-thinking and fostered groundbreaking discussions on the future of our foreign and domestic policy. His early involvement on conservation measures began during the epic [seven year drought of the 1950's in Texas](#)¹.

¹ Handbook of Texas, Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1996; Droughts; <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/ybd01>

II. OVERVIEW

Known as “Dudley,” Benjamin Dudley Tarlton Dougherty was a lifelong resident of Bee County. He was born in San Antonio on December 18, 1923 as the youngest of four children to [James Robert Dougherty](#)² and Genevieve Tarlton Dougherty of Beeville.

A third generation Texan of Irish descent whose ancestors, [Robert and Rachel Dougherty](#)³ founded St. Paul’s Academy at Round Lake, his grandparents lived and worked from the area now known as San Patricio de Hibernia, situated in the land grant of the [McGloin Colony Empresarios](#)⁴. His father left San Patricio to settle and practice law in Beeville. Dudley was named for his maternal grandfather, [Benjamin Dudley Tarlton](#)⁵ a noted jurist and law professor in Austin.

Dudley grew up in an environment rich in learning and life experience. His father, James Robert Dougherty, successfully argued cases before the United States Supreme Court and later in life became a rancher and oil producer in Bee County and greater South Texas⁶.

² Handbook of Texas, Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1996; James Robert Dougherty; <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fdo22>

³ Handbook of Texas, Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1996; Robert and Racheal Dougherty entries for Robert Francis Dougherty (1827-1881) <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fdo49>

⁴ Handbook of Texas, Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1996; James McGloin; <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fmc61>

⁵ Handbook of Texas, Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1996; and Benjamin Dudley Tarlton (1849-1919) <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fta09%20>.

⁶ *Brown v. United States*, 256 U.S. 326 (1921).

Mostly self-taught, Dougherty attended St. Joseph's School in Beeville and Culver Military Academy. He was a gifted student who audited and attended classes at the University of Texas beginning at age 12 and following his return from military service in World War II ⁷.

⁷ Memorial Resolution, H. R. 22, Texas House of Representatives, 66th Legislature, January 23, 1979



Figure 1. Dudley T. Dougherty Age 19

At the age of nineteen, although plagued by bad eyesight, Dudley Dougherty memorized the eye exam and enlisted in the United States Army. He landed in Europe

shortly after the D-Day invasions and won four Bronze Stars in combat before receiving his honorable discharge on December 13, 1945⁸.

Dougherty returned to Beeville at age 21 after the war to fight for the peace and to manage his family's oil and ranching interests⁹.

In his oral history, Dougherty described himself as a young man, who after the war "... followed County politics at an intensive level." He was about to enter into state and national politics and it was then that he attended the 1948 Democratic National Convention where he witnessed the nomination of President Truman¹⁰.

In November 1950 Dudley Dougherty married Mary Patricia Calhoun of Goliad¹¹. The Dougherty's and their four children made their home at San Domingo Ranch, his 6,000 acre ranch in Bee County¹². Dudley made it his home for the remainder of his life.

Next to politics, his second most important involvement, that with conservation began in earnest. The ranch was a meeting place for like-minded people whose politics and life stories interested Mr. Dougherty, and who often came and went to the surprise

⁸ Memorial Resolution, January 23, 1979; Honorable Discharge Benjamin D. T. Dougherty, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, December 13, 1945, Dougherty Family Papers, San Domingo Ranch, Beeville, Texas.

⁹ Oral History Interview of Dudley T. Dougherty by Joe B. Frantz, December 27, 1971, Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library, Austin, Texas, 1-2.

¹⁰ Oral History Interview of Dudley T. Dougherty by Joe B. Frantz, December 27, 1971, Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library, Austin, Texas, 1-2.

¹¹ "Miss Mary Patricia Calhoun and Dudley Dougherty Marry Saturday in Home of Bride," *Beeville Bee-Picayune* (November 16, 1950), 7-8. Mary Patricia Calhoun Dougherty

¹² The Doughertys had four children: James Robert Dougherty, III (1951-1992), Mary Patricia Dougherty (1953-), Dudley Calhoun Dougherty (1955-1976), and Stephen Tarlton Dougherty (1958-).

of his family and fellow co-workers. The Doughertys' entertained frequently at San Domingo which became a meeting place and forum for a wide range of people of varying backgrounds and opinions. Their guests included Lyndon Johnson, Madame Nhu, *de facto* First Lady of the Republic of Vietnam, Audie Murphy¹³, and the Doughertys' many friends in politics the arts, and friends from the Legislature years¹⁴. Many productive and memorable things came from those sojourns.

In 1952 Dougherty defeated a four-term incumbent to win election to the Texas House of Representatives from a district composed of Bee, Karnes, and Wilson counties¹⁵

¹³ Handbook of Texas, entry for Audie Leon Murphy (1924-1971), Texas handbook; <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fmu13>; "350 Guests Attend Dougherty Open House at San Domingo Ranch," *Beeville Bee-Picayune* (January 3, 1957), 4B; "Dougherty At Home Event Is Among Most Festive Parties of Yuletide Holiday Season," *Beeville Bee-Picayune* (December 24, 1959), 2B.

¹⁴ "Foreign Relations: Whew!" *Time Magazine* (November 1, 1963), 24; Mary Brinkerhoff, "Unpredictable Madame Nhu Keeps the Press Hopping," *The Dallas Morning News* (October 27, 1963), 26; "Beeville Is Given International Publicity by Visit of Viet Nam's First Lady to Dougherty Ranch," *Beeville Bee-Picayune* (October 24, 1963), 1, 6; "Madame Nhu Dinner Guest at South Texas Ranch," *San Antonio Express* (October 24, 1963), 1;


¹⁵ "Dudley Dougherty Announces Candidacy for Legislature; Is Life-Long Bee Countian." *Beeville Bee-Picayune* (February 14, 1952), 1; "Dougherty Wins Representative Race By 604 Votes," *Beeville Bee-Picayune* (July 31, 1952), 1.

Lyndon's Record!

- As chairman of the Senate Armed Services Preparedness subcommittee Lyndon Johnson refused to release the subcommittee's findings on who was responsible for the ammunition shortage in Korea—a shortage that cost the lives of many American boys, and a matter of great concern to every mother and father of a boy who died in that far-off land.
- On August 16, 1949, Lyndon Johnson voted for Government Reorganization Plan I which would have opened the door to socialized medicine. Johnson's vote is recorded on Page 11560 of the Congressional Record.
- On August 3, 1950, Lyndon Johnson voted against an appropriation for cancer, heart, dental health and mental health research. That vote by Johnson is recorded on Page 11680 of the Congressional Record.
- Lyndon Johnson's record shows his political philosophy is one of graceful flip-flopping. Like the man on the flying trapeze he swings from arch liberalism to arch conservatism with the greatest of ease and no one knows where or how he stands on any of the vital issues now facing the nation. His statements say one thing, his vote says another.

ELECT
DUDLEY T. DOUGHERTY
United States Senator
Subject to Democratic Primaries July 24

Elect



DUDLEY T. DOUGHERTY
BEEVILLE, TEXAS
U. S. SENATOR
JULY 24, 1954
DEMOCRATIC
PRIMARY

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Figure 2. Dudley T. Dougherty's Senate Race Flyer, 1954

Meet the Doughertys



THE DUDLEY T. DOUGHERTY STORY

Dudley T. Dougherty is a native Texan. He was born 30 years ago in San Antonio and reared in Bee County where his family has lived for many years. He is married and the father of two children, James and Patricia. His wife is the former Patricia Calhoun of Goliad. They were married November 11, 1950.

Dudley Dougherty is the son of Genevieve Tarlton Dougherty and the late Judge James R. Dougherty, widely known and respected Texas attorney, philanthropist and oil explorer. He comes from a long line of pioneer Texas stock. His grandfather was the late Judge B. D. Tarlton, Senior Professor of Law at the University of Texas, and Chief Justice of the Court of Civil Appeals of Texas.

Dudley Dougherty graduated from the public schools of Beeville and attended the University of Texas. He is well read, widely traveled, a keen student of history and political science, and is one of America's most active opponents of Communism, Socialism, and all other alien isms that menace the democratic principles of the American way of life.

As a member of the Texas House of Representatives he has shown sound thinking and farsightedness in promoting passage of sound and constructive legislation, regardless of the author. His own bills are among the soundest ever introduced.

In the firm belief that all men are free and all political power is inherent in the people, Dudley Dougherty offers himself as a candidate for the United States Senate in order that he may fully use his legislative, business and military experience for the betterment of the people of Texas, and not for greedy and selfish special interests.

**THINKING TEXANS WILL NOT
TOLERATE, OR REWARD, THE
THEFT OF AN AUTOMOBILE OR
THE THEFT OF PUBLIC OFFICE.**

COMBAT VETERAN

Dudley Dougherty volunteered for army service in World War II and served as an enlisted man in the Mechanized Cavalry of the famed Third Army under General George Patton. He was awarded four bronze battle stars for campaigns in Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, and Central Europe.



BUSINESS MAN

Dudley Dougherty is engaged in the oil, ranching, and farming business throughout South Texas. He has won the admiration of those whom he comes in contact with by his ability to think rapidly and clearly and to act wisely. He has continued to operate with outstanding success the various business activities of his father's estate.



LEGISLATOR

Elected to the Texas Legislature in 1952, he has served on committees dealing with water conservation, agriculture and veterans legislation. He sponsored drought disaster relief legislation, worked for teachers pay increases with a balanced budget and opposed new taxes and high spending. He sponsored legislation outlawing Communism in the State of Texas.



COPY LBJ LIBRARY

Figure 3. The Dougherty Family in Dudley T. Dougherty's Senate Race Flyer, 1954

Mr. Dougherty was an ardent advocate for the protection of political refugees and prisoners of war¹⁶. In 1953 he founded a national organization, the Committee for American Victory, which opposed the forced repatriation of North Korean prisoners of war to their former homeland¹⁷. The following year, Dougherty organized a national effort to protect the rights of American servicemen who were threatened with prosecution by the U.S. Army while prisoners of war in Korea¹⁸. His wartime experience produced a lifelong commitment to veterans' groups which he supported both financially and through his active participation.

In 1953, during the period of racial segregation, Dudley T. Dougherty provided financial support and motivation to build the Charles Major Lytle American Legion Post 818 in Beeville, a post for African-American veterans. Mr. Dougherty's support for Post 818 and his personal attendance at its meetings during the years of segregation reflected his commitment to a fair and equal place of honor for all veterans. In 2014 the Texas Historical Commission designated the Charles Major Lytle American Legion Post 818 with a historical marker¹⁹.

¹⁶ "A Citizen Remembers," *Chicago Daily Tribune* (August 10, 1953), II-5

¹⁷ "Texan Starts Own Crusade," *Omaha World-Herald* (July 8, 1953), 8; "Texan Pushing Drive on Truce," *The Austin American* (July 8, 1953), 3; "Solon Raps Truce with Ad," *San Antonio Light* (July 11, 1953), 3.

¹⁸ "Texas Solon Would Help Defend Confessed PWs," *Houston Chronicle* (January 3, 1954), 1; "Pax," *San Antonio Light* (September 26, 1965), 11B; Dudley T. Dougherty to Lyndon B. Johnson, "A Plea for an Immediate Armistice in South Vietnam," (October 7, 1965), Dougherty Family Papers, San Domingo Ranch, Beeville, Texas.

¹⁹ Dougherty's support is cited in the Texas Historical Commission's Marker for the Charles Major Lytle American Legion Post 818 dedicated in Beeville in August 2014.



Figure 4. Post 818 American Legion Texas Historical Commission Marker, Beeville TX



Figure 5. Dudley T. Dougherty at his office

In 1954 Dudley Dougherty was the sole candidate to oppose the re-election of Lyndon B. Johnson to the United States Senate²⁰. Dougherty challenged the incumbent Senator to give voters a choice. He disagreed with Johnson for supporting the wartime agreements at Yalta and Potsdam and for failing to support the Bricker Amendment. This Amendment would have limited executive agreements and prohibited any treaty from abridging rights guaranteed to Americans by the Constitution²¹.

The Dougherty-Johnson campaign attracted widespread attention beyond Texas and the interest of many national organizations. After the election, Lyndon Johnson persuaded Congress to adopt an amendment to the Internal Revenue Code prohibiting tax-exempt organizations from actively participating in election campaigns²². Dudley Dougherty focused his attention as a rancher and state legislator on water conservation and environmental issues during the devastating seven-year drought which parched Texas in the 1950s²³.

²⁰ Rep. Dougherty Will Seek Johnson's Seat," *The Houston Post* (February 7, 1954), 18. Sam Kinch, "Beeville Rancher Eyes Johnson's Seat," *Ft. Worth Star-Telegram* (February 7, 1954), 16; "Beeville Rancher to Seek Johnson's Senatorial Seat," *San Antonio Express and News* (February 7, 1954), 1, 9A. Dougherty won 354,188 votes in the Democratic primary on July 24, 1954. *Texas Almanac* 1956-1957, Dallas: A. H. Belo Corporation, 1955, 521.

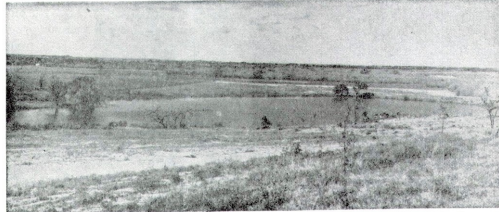
²¹ Oral History Interview of Dudley T. Dougherty by Joe B. Frantz (1971) 24-25; Oral History Interview of Dudley T. Dougherty by Michael L. Gillette, September 17, 1975, Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library, Austin, Texas, 12; Duane Tananbaum, *The Bricker Amendment Controversy: A Test of Eisenhower's Political Leadership*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1988; Nelson Richards, "The Bricker Amendment and Congress' Failure to Check the Inflation of the Executive's Foreign Affairs Powers, 1951-1954," *California Law Review* XCIV (January 2006), 175-214.

²² Floyd Norris, "A Fine Line Between Social and Political," *The New York Times* (May 17, 2013), B1, B8.

²³ Dudley T. Dougherty, "A Workable Water Conservation Program on San Domingo Ranch," *San Antonio Light* (February 8, 1957), 28A.

★ ★ A WORKABLE WATER ★ ★ CONSERVATION PROGRAM

ON DUDLEY T. DOUGHERTY'S SAN DOMINGO RANCH, BEEVILLE, TEXAS.



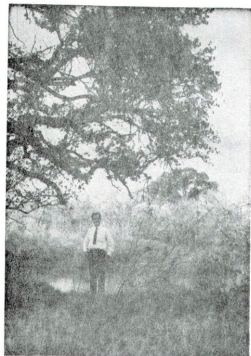
EARTH DAM HOLDS RUN-OFF WATER
Contains 65,140,000 gallons for irrigation.



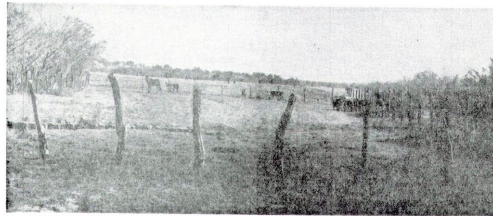
GOATS HELP TO WITHSTAND DROUGHT
Produce profit even during the dry years.



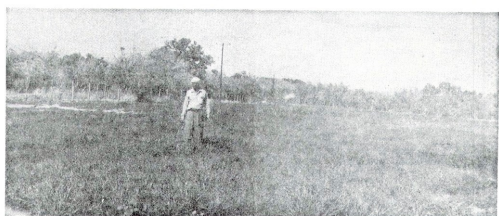
UPLAND PONDS CONTRIBUTE A PART
Every drop of unabsorbed rain trapped.



DOUGHERTY SURVEYS LAKE'S BACKWATER
Mile and a half away from main control dam.



THIS IS WINTER OAT PASTURE ON 5,000-ACRE DOUGHERTY RANCH NEAR BEEVILLE SHOWING DROUGHT'S EFFECT
Rich sandy loam will sustain only a handful of livestock even though some rain fell during fall.



THIS IS KNEE-DEEP SECTION OF PASTURE AT LEFT 14 DAYS AFTER TURNING WELL WATER ONTO DRY SOIL
Wells are being drilled to replace water as it is used for irrigation from lakes in ranch's watershed.

THE TEXAS WATER PROBLEM A SOLUTION

BY DUDLEY TARLTON DOUGHERTY

Texas is faced with disaster because of our seven-year drought. With Congress and our Texas legislature now in session the most urgent domestic program these office holders can offer is one dealing with water.

I have retained and consulted some of America's leading engineers and hydrologists since I offered a water program in 1954 and I again suggest and urge that a long range water program be started, both in Congress and the Texas legislature at the earliest possible moment.

We owe it to our children and their children to plan ahead for many, many years because the records show that our state has had and probably will again have extended periods of drought. Furthermore, Texas will increase its population by several million in the next 25 years and new industries, jobs and professions must be supplied to the newcomers, whether Texas-born babies or folks who come down to live in our state because of the climate and other advantages.

Here are a few of my water program plans as developed by noted engineers and hydrologists I have hired in the past several years:

1. The Mississippi River; U. S. Army Engineers inform me that 450,000,000 acre-feet of fresh water flows into the Gulf of Mexico every year. An acre-foot is 325,900 gallons. In other words, 1,200,000 acre-feet of water flow into the Gulf below New Orleans every day of the year.

To me this is a senseless waste of greatly needed resources in Texas and other southwest states. If our Congressional delegation would combine and work on this problem I believe it could be arranged so that at least 20 per cent of this water could be diverted through pipelines into our state. This would mean that we would get approximately 700 million gallons of water a day that we do not get from our rainfall or natural water supply. That amount of extra water coming into Texas 365 days a year could make a paradise out of our state because we have the sun and the land and if we get those trillions of gallons of extra fresh water together with our normal river flow from the snow of the Rockies, and other sources; it would change the entire economic picture in the nation's biggest state.

2. Texas canals from the eastern part of the state where there is usually a very heavy rainfall. For many years experts have proposed that the waters from this heavy rainfall area be "canalled" to the various cities along the Gulf, where most new industries should locate because of cheap water transportation.

3. We now have a pilot plant at Wichita Falls which changes brackish water to fresh, at the rate of about

50,000 gallons per day. This process, pioneered by scientists of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University plus public spirited men in New England, and called Ionics, Inc., is proving to be highly successful in freshening this brackish water. Texas has many millions of acres with foul water underneath and with a number of these Ionics plants scattered throughout the state we can get billions of gallons of water changed to fresh.

4. The all-important matter of changing sea water to fresh water. Fred Seaton, Secretary of the Interior, has predicted that thirty years from now the United States will be honeycombed with vast pipelines conveying fresh water over the nation, water that is developed from sea water in the Gulf of Mexico or in the two big oceans.

Congress has appropriated ten million dollars for experiments in this all-important work and as part of my program I urge the 22 National House members and both our United States Senators to get together and advocate that there be a big expenditure for perfecting the process of sea water to fresh water.

Fortunately, more than 500 American scientists have been working on this problem under the Interior Department and great progress has been made both in changing the brackish waters in Texas and other states and in converting sea water to fresh.

The time has now arrived when, instead of ten million dollars, we must appropriate much larger sums to hasten the day when we can have trillions of gallons of fresh water from the oceans to step up our economy in the cities and on the ranches and farms of America—and particularly of Texas.

We have something like 265,000 square miles of area (each mile is 640 acres) in our vast state. If we can bring over the water from the Mississippi; if we can pipe the surplus water from East Texas to South Texas to develop the cities on the Gulf; if we can get enough plants into the brackish water areas; and, if we get our conversion of sea water to fresh water program going, and going fast, these critical areas in Texas history and also in other parts of the world will be ended forever.

Recently I have completed a book on the subject of water which I hope to have published within the next few months and I expect to send it to members of the legislature, members of Congress, the almost 700 newspapers, weekly and daily in Texas and also to the news departments of the many radio and TV stations in our state. I shall send this at my own expense because I feel that I owe it to Texas to do this much in arousing our people to the vital necessity of having a long range water program, not only for this state, but for other states and other nations.

Figure 6. *San Antonio Light* (February 8, 1957)

Dudley T. Dougherty became expert on [water conservation and land management](#), pioneering cloud seeding and conservation experiments at San Domingo Ranch²⁴. Sponsored archeological digs for fossils took place at the ranch. In 1957 he wrote a well-received book, The Water Problem: A Solution²⁵.

When a Mastodon head was found during a well site excavation, it was subsequently donated to the University of Texas²⁶.

In the late 1950s Dougherty advised Congress in drafting a Great Plains Conservation Act, a comprehensive proposal for managing and conserving the resources and environment of the vast Great Plains region²⁷.

In 1959 Dudley Dougherty acquired La Prensa, a San Antonio newspaper published in English and Spanish, with the goal of uniting both communities and expanding commercial and cultural ties between South Texas and Latin America. His editorials sought to influence others for the common good, revealing information not

²⁴ Oral History Interview of Dudley T. Dougherty by Joe B. Frantz (1971) 24-25; Oral History Interview of Dudley T. Dougherty by Michael L. Gillette, September 17, 1975, Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library, Austin, Texas, 12; Duane Tananbaum, *The Bricker Amendment Controversy: A Test of Eisenhower's Political Leadership*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1988; Nelson Richards, "The Bricker Amendment and Congress' Failure to Check the Inflation of the Executive's Foreign Affairs Powers, 1951-1954," *California Law Review* XCIV (January 2006), 175-214.

²⁵ Dudley T. Dougherty, *The Water Problem: A Solution*, Philadelphia: Dorrance and Company, 1957; House Resolution H.S.R. 3, Texas House of Representatives, 55th Legislature, November 13, 1957.

²⁶ Interview, Mary Patricia Dougherty, April 28, 2015

²⁷ John A. Carroll Papers, University of Colorado at Boulder.

readily available elsewhere, while trying to seek workable solutions to complex problems of the day²⁸

Dudley Dougherty publicly opposed the use of military intervention in Indochina as early as his Senate campaign against Lyndon Johnson in 1954. In the 1960s Mr. Dougherty's writings continued to show his commitment to building peace through a foreign policy based on human rights and international cooperation²⁹. His stance on military interventionism had not wavered, and he became an even more outspoken critic of war when America sent military advisors to Vietnam during the early Kennedy years³⁰.

²⁸ "Spanish-English Newspaper in San Antonio to be Daily," *The Houston Post* (June 5, 1959), 4. Interview with Hon. Frances Tarlton Farenthold, Houston, Texas, September 14, 2013; Interview with Hon. John N. Barnhart, Berclair, Texas, October 25, 2009; <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/eel03>

²⁹ Dudley T. Dougherty, "Statement of Principles", *Beeville Bee-Picayun* (April 12, 1956), C3.

³⁰ "Viet Nam," *San Antonio Light* (September 17, 1965), 28; "Pax," *San Antonio Light* (September 26, 1965), 11B; "War Called Unholy," *San Antonio Express* (April 27, 1967), 4F; Dudley T. Dougherty to Lyndon B. Johnson, "A Plea for an Immediate Armistice in South Vietnam," (October 7, 1965), Dougherty Family Papers, San Domingo ranch, Beeville, Texas.



Figure 7. Dougherty seated across from Kennedy at the White House Luncheon

In October 1961 President Kennedy honored Dougherty by inviting him to the White House for his advocacy of the President's Alliance for Progress and as publisher of La Prensa³¹.

³¹ "Texas Publishers Opinion on Kennedy Varied," *The Dallas Morning News* (October 29, 1961), 13.



Figure 8. "A Washington Circus" Painted for Dudley T. Dougherty by artist Dong Moy Chu Kingman

In 1962 the Chinese-American California watercolor artist, Dong Kingman visited San Domingo. There, Dougherty and he conceived his singular work, a political commentary called “A Washington Circus”, spanning the 1962-1964 years. The painting was done with Mr. Dougherty’s take on the political environment of the time. The inspiration for the title came from a phrase that described a philosophy known as Euergetism, a system of public beneficence practiced by Roman emperors that could be summed up in the phrase:

“..Give Them Bread and Circuses..”

In ancient times, euegetism was central to gaining popularity with the public. According to Pliny, when not used properly, euegetism was also a way to extricate the government from its own misdeeds.

The painting was an iconographic statement from Mr. Dougherty and Kingman on Washington Politics during that time of upheaval and change both immediately before and after the death of JFK³².

³² Interview, Mary Patricia Dougherty, April 28, 2015

casualties mount, the war drags on to a stalemate, and South Vietnam is devastated and ruined and its young men exterminated, it will not encourage other small nations to become the battle ground of Communism.

In case of such a tragic fiasco, as the one responsible, it might be your duty to resign but such actions would not be in the interest of the nation as the Vice-President, who is a former active leader of the ADA has followed your footsteps faithfully in the war in Vietnam.

You should concentrate your efforts to safeguarding the United States from Communism within and from the cancer of Communism at our door steps in Cuba, which is spreading rapidly throughout Latin America, and above all to declare an armistice immediately in South Vietnam before war tensions increase throughout the world.

Despite extensive propaganda and brainwashing the American people are beginning to question this mad venture of Internationalism gone mad; of policing South East Asia alone with American lives and our taxpayers money.

The American people, up to now, have had no voice in this war. The purpose of this letter is to stop the fighting before it turns into a game of Russian Roulette that might involve us in greater or even nuclear war.

Mr. President, you have the power to declare an armistice, to end the slaughter, and to stop war now, in accord with the admonition of Pope Paul VI in his world wide plea for Peace.

Wishing you every success,

DUDLEY TARLTON DOUGHERTY

DUDLEY DOUGHERTY

A Constitutional, Jeffersonian Democrat.

Dudley Tarlton Dougherty

Figure 9. Excerpt of letter from DTD to LBJ "[A Plea for Immediate Armistice in South Viet Nam](#)"

A thoughtful man, despite his abilities and position, Dougherty approached life by the principle of "from those to whom much is given, much is expected". He was known as a brilliant and prescient individual who wanted to be an asset to others. His Congressional campaign in 1960 against incumbent Congressman John Young with the support of Labor, was his last foray into the field of political office³³.

After he retired from public office, despite political pressure, to remain silent, Mr. Dougherty lent his experience and financial resources to counsel and support other candidates such as his cousin, [Frances Tarlton \(Sissy\) Farenthold](#) and sponsored other innumerable causes and projects for the public benefit³⁴.

Throughout his life Dougherty was a devout member of the Roman Catholic Church. He was honored as a Knight of the Holy Sepulcher and a Knight of Malta, and attended both Papal coronations of Pope John XXIII in 1958 and Pope Paul VI in 1963 as a guest of Francis Cardinal Spellman³⁵.

As a rancher and oil producer, Dudley Dougherty played an important role in the economic life of Bee County and served on the Board of Directors of the First National

³³ "Dudley Dougherty is Candidate for Congressional Post," *Beeville Bee-Picayune* (March 10, 1960), 1.

Interview with Frances Tarlton Farenthold, September 14, 2013. ³⁴

³⁵ Memorial Resolution, January 23, 1979

Bank and the Commercial National Bank in Beeville and on the Board of Directors of the Beeville Public Library³⁶.

Dougherty's many philanthropies included gifts by his family's foundation to local institutions, some of which include construction of the Recreation Center for St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Beeville, the Bee County Public Library, the Student Union and Dental Hygiene buildings at Bee County College, the Bee County Coliseum, and the Doctor's Building in Beeville³⁷.

In June 1974 Dudley Dougherty received a Doctor of Humanities degree from Mary Hardin-Baylor College in recognition of his lasting and noteworthy contributions to humanity³⁸.

In 1975 the University of Texas named Dudley Dougherty as Patron of the Arts and Sciences for 1975-1976³⁹.

The Dudley T. Dougherty Foundation was established on February 21, 2000 in his honor and to fulfill his legacy by supporting many causes in his community and state⁴⁰.

³⁶ Memorial Resolution, January 23, 1979; "Prominent Philanthropist Dies," *Beeville Bee-Picayune* (May 11, 1978), 1.

³⁷ Memorial Resolution, January 23, 1979; "Prominent Philanthropist Dies," *Beeville Bee-Picayune* (May 11, 1978), 1.

³⁸ Memorial Resolution, January 23, 1979.

³⁹ Memorial Resolution, January 23, 1979.

⁴⁰ Dudley T. Dougherty Foundation, www.dudleytdoughertyfoundation.org

The Foundation actively pursues his legacy today. It recently established The [Dudley T. Dougherty Natural Sounds Collection](#), which is located at San Domingo Ranch to catalogue and chronicle the unique birds and other wildlife of South Texas⁴¹.

Benjamin Dudley Tarlton Dougherty died on May 10, 1978 at the age of 54. He was buried in the family plot at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Beeville beside his son Dudley Calhoun Dougherty (1955-1976), his parents, and a memorial to his older brother, James Robert Dougherty, Jr., who died in combat in World War II⁴².

⁴¹ Dudley T. Dougherty Natural Sounds Collection. Wikimedia
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Dudley_T._Dougherty_Natural_Sounds_Collection

⁴² Memorial Resolution, January 23, 1979; "Prominent Philanthropist Dies," *Beeville Bee-Picayune* (May 11, 1978), 1.d

III. HISTORICAL/CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

As a business leader who was active in conservation and philanthropy, Dudley Dougherty made significant and tangible contributions to his community which are evident today in the educational, cultural, and medical institutions of Bee County and South Texas.

Mr. Dougherty was a fearless and outspoken reformer who risked his political future by courageously opposing Senator Lyndon B. Johnson's re-election in 1954. He raised unpleasant questions about the incumbent's disputed first election to the Senate, and won the votes of almost 355,000 Texans who would have had no voice had Johnson remained unopposed.

Dudley T. Dougherty's experience as a decorated combat infantryman lent strength and credibility to his lifelong opposition to war and support for a foreign policy based on peace and international cooperation. Mr. Dougherty led a nation-wide campaign to protest the forced repatriation of prisoners of war to North Korea and founded a national organization to protect the rights of American servicemen who had been captured in Korea. In the 1960s he was a vocal critic of the Vietnam War.

Dougherty's battles for open government, election reform, and strict accountability for public officials resonated with many of his fellow Texans and improved and strengthened the political culture of his state and nation. His major accomplishments during his lifetime illustrate Dudley T. Dougherty was a man of high intellect with wide-ranging interests with a lifelong dedication to making his community and country a better

place for all of its citizens and for future generations. His unselfish generosity to civic, educational, medical, and artistic causes was of distinct and lasting benefit to his community. His public service, including a willingness to speak candidly and to take unpopular stands, was widely recognized and commended in his community and state.

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