

First Ladies of Katy

Meet the Women Who Stand by Katy's Most Prominent Men

Written By Natalie Cook Clark and Photography by Marisa Hugonnett



Katy first ladies (from left) Patsy Stanley, Sheila Joseph, Anissa Frailey, Ida Faye Elder, and Michelle LaCour share their stories of supporting their families.

The age-old phrase that behind every great man, there's a great woman is definitely true when it comes to these first ladies of Katy. Whether it's being a partner in the business, keeping the household running smoothly, or attending numerous community functions, the nature of their support can change on a day-to-day basis.

Support Comes in Many Forms

To Kavin Vickery, wife of Downy Vickery, president and CEO of Tradition Bank, supporting her husband means going along for the ride. "He grabs my hand and off we go to get involved with whatever is going on in the community," she says. Patsy Stanley, the wife of Stan Stanley, owner and president of Stanley Signature Signage, Inc., stands by him by being his "head cheerleader" for whatever project he is working on at the time.

Sheila Joseph married her best friend, Gary Joseph, who is Katy High School's football coach and athletic coordinator. When she married the football fanatic 30 years ago, she knew what she was getting into. "I love high school sports, so it has been very easy to be a supportive coach's wife," she says. Anissa Frailey, married to Katy ISD Superintendent Alton Frailey, takes pride in taking care of things at home. "He has so much to deal with all day I want him to come home to find that everything is okay here," she says.

However they support their husbands, they all have one thing in common: All these women value their families and center them as the most important thing in their lives.

Taking Time for Family

With their calendars always full of community events, business projects, and important moments in their children's and grandchildren's lives, they all agree that finding and keeping family time is important. Anissa Frailey admits that juggling all three children's schedules and Alton's can make finding family time more of a challenge. When the Fraileys all get together either at home to watch some TV or for dinner out in Katy, though, it is time that they all love.

Finding time to reconnect is a little easier now for Ida Elder and her husband Mayor Don Elder, who no longer have a child at home, but who are still strict about finding family time. Whether they attend evening events or just make a simple meal at home, they always eat dinner together. "It may not be much, but we do have something," Ida explains. She also works to schedule time for them to spend with friends and their son, Shane.

The Stanleys center family time around their grandchildren and their many activities, because they know that these are treasured experiences that will only last a short period of time. The Joseph's fit family time in with Gary's busy schedule, bonding over football. "Trust me when I say Katy football is what our family does," Sheila says.

Finding the Right Balance

Michelle LaCour is married to Lance LaCour, the president and CEO of the Katy Area Economic Development Council, and has her hands full supporting him and their two young children, Alexandra, 11, and Emory, 9. Being married to a prominent figure in the community comes with extra demands, as Michelle knows well. "We are so fortunate here in Katy to have limitless extracurricular

activities for our kids, which we take full advantage of. Most of my stress comes in keeping everyone on time and not knowing if Lance will be able to participate on a particular day. I know he doesn't like to miss out," she says. Many others also notice the extra demands, like Ida Elder, who works as an administrative assistant for Katy ISD's Area 3 Assistant Superintendent and took care of her elderly mother all while participating in the community along with her husband. She advises that finding a balance is the key to her success.

Cathie Mann is the woman next to Woody Mann, president and CEO of Vista Equities Group and Vice President of the Vista Management Group. You may have heard of these companies because they own LaCenterra, the popular Katy shopping destination. Cathie co-owns the company and runs the management team, so in addition to supporting Woody, she also has a demanding work schedule.

During their 20 years of marriage, they have worked hard to stand by each other, offering needed encouragement and support. "We give each other the time and space and respect to do what is important to us. Mostly though, we do things together," explains Cathie. Every morning, she tries to wake up in a good mood, since she believes nothing can be done well through negativity.

Staying True to Yourself

Even with all of their obligations to family and time spent supporting their husbands in whatever way they can they all believe, it is important to stay true to yourself. "Find time to do something you really love that refills your tank," says Kavin Vickery. "This enables you to give support to others." She enjoys it when she can find time to spoil herself with a pedicure or a massage.

Like many of the others, she also finds joy through giving back and spent over 10 years volunteering as a counselor at a crisis pregnancy center. As a breast cancer survivor, she is now actively involved with the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in Houston. Michelle LaCour takes pride in her involvement with her children's PTA and is thrilled with all the great opportunities that Katy ISD offers. Ida Elder loves Katy's parks and serves on the City Parks Committee.

Being Extraordinary Everyday

These great women are a resource, supplementary help, and partner responsible for guiding their husbands to be the success and community advocates that they are. Michelle and Lance LaCour met while studying economic development in graduate school and both still share that passion for community. "While I am not at the forefront, by supporting Lance I feel I am contributing in some way also," says Michelle.

These women are all very humble and laugh when being asked what it is like to be married to a prominent man. They are no different than any other busy family. They work, manage schedules, and make time to get the family together all while keeping their sense of self. Sheila Joseph puts it best when she says, "Always take some time for yourself, but if you love your life, you probably have a good sense of self. I love my life!" **KM**

NATALIE COOK CLARK loves being a freelance journalist in her hometown of Katy. The Baylor alumna lives with her loving dog, Oscar, and her wonderful, supporting husband, Stephen. Clark is happy to announce that they are expecting their first child this summer.

"Always take some time for yourself, but if you love your life, you probably have a good sense of self."
—Sheila Joseph



Patsy Stanley

Married for 28 years to Stan Stanley, owner and president of Stanley Signature Signage, Inc. and Standley Elementary Namesake.

Children's names and ages

Reesa, 46, Rhonda, 42, and Michelle, 44.

What is the biggest challenge?

Time management.

What is the biggest reward?

It certainly lends excitement to our lives.

“Patience and understanding are required, considering the amount of time necessary to fulfill all of his commitments.”

-Patsy Stanley



Michelle LaCour

Married for 16 years to Lance LaCour, president and CEO of the Katy Area Economic Development Alliance.

Children's names and ages

Alexandra, 11, and Emory, 9.

What is the biggest challenge?

Lance's job deals with a lot of confidential information, so my biggest challenge is being able to keep a secret.

What is the biggest reward?

Being able to see their success come to fruition.

“While I am not at the forefront, by supporting him I feel I am contributing in some way also.”

-Michelle LaCour



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Sheila Joseph

Married for 30 years to Gary Joseph, Katy High School football coach.

Children's names and ages

Jon, 29, Jeff, 27, and Julie, 24.

What is the biggest challenge?

Attempting to keep up with the athletic schedule of Katy High School. My husband is seldom home!

What is the biggest reward?

My biggest reward is watching the growth of all the Katy football players as gentlemen, scholars, and players. Seeing their success through the years is very rewarding.



“I love high school sports, so it has been very easy to be a supportive coach's wife.”

-Sheila Joseph



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Cathie Mann

Married for 20 years to Woody Mann Jr., president and CEO of Vista Equities Group and vice president of Vista Management Group, which owns LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch.

Children's names and ages

Brent Mann, 46, Lesley Mann, 43, and TaShana Burke, 38.

What is the biggest challenge?

Keeping up with him!

What is the biggest reward?

Spending time with him meeting fascinating people.

“We give each other the time and space and respect to do what is important to us. Mostly though, we do things together.”

-Cathie Mann



Kavin Vickery

Married for seven years to Downy Vickery, president and CEO of Tradition Bank.

Children's names and ages

Shannon, 22.

What is the biggest challenge?

Time management!

What is the biggest reward?

Being involved in our great community!

“Find time to do something you really love that refills your tank. This enables you to give support to others.”

-Kavin Vickery



Anissa Frailey

Married for 20 years to Alton Frailey, Katy ISD superintendent.

Children's names and ages

Alana, 18, Anderson, 16, and Austin, 12.

What is the biggest challenge?

Time - We share him with many people, groups, functions, etc.

What is the biggest reward?

Knowing that sharing him [and] allowing him to do his job, leads to great accomplishments for the district and community.

“He has so much to deal with all day, I want him to come home to find that everything is okay here.”
-Anissa Frailey

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QUICK TIPS

For Supporting Your Mover and Shaker

- Accept who he is and what he does
- Always make the best of what you have
- Don't be afraid to use a large wall calendar to help keep your family organized
- Don't forget to find time to do something you really love
- Exercise to lessen stress
- Go visit the mall when you need to just get away
- Listen to and bounce ideas off each other
- Never compare what you are doing to what he is doing
- Get involved in the community and give back
- Love your life

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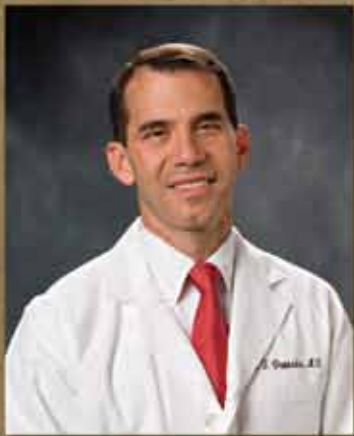
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Mayor Don Elder and
Ida Faye Elder

Ida Faye Elder

Married for 44 years to Don Elder, Katy mayor.

Children's names and ages

Shane, 33.

What is the biggest challenge?

I think the biggest challenge is trying to "keep up." We have many events to attend and working full time and attending the events is interesting sometimes.

What is the biggest reward?

I think the biggest reward is getting to meet so many nice people in the community and being involved. Knowing that Don as mayor finds that job rewarding is also the way I feel. I feel that he has done a great job and I am very proud to be a part of it.

“It's my nature to take care of my family first.”

-Ida Faye Elder

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