Proposed North Transportation Namesake:
William “Bill” Kyser
Biography

William “Bill” Robert Kyser devoted his life to public service, integrity, and caring for others. He dedicated more than two decades to student transportation, ensuring that children arrived at school safely and returned home to their families each day.

Bill began his tenure as Director of Transportation for Katy ISD in August 1985 and faithfully served in that role until his retirement in June 2007. For nearly 22 years, he was responsible for one of the largest and most visible operations in the district: getting thousands of students to and from school safely, every single day. He understood that for many students, the school bus is their first and last contact with the district each day, and he approached that responsibility with seriousness, care, and a calm, steady presence.

Kyser’s leadership in Katy ISD was not only operational; it was innovative. Bill was instrumental in bringing air conditioning to Katy ISD school buses, making the district one of the first in the area to utilize bus air conditioning. This was not a superficial upgrade; it significantly improved the daily experience and safety of students and drivers in the Texas heat.

He was also a strong supporter of in-house daycare for bus drivers, recognizing that transportation professionals are often parents and caregivers themselves. By advocating for solutions that supported drivers’ families, Bill helped the district recruit and retain quality staff, build loyalty, and create a more stable and caring work environment.

Bill also believed deeply in educating students about safety. He was responsible for the “Katie the Bus” educational program, designed to teach elementary students how to ride the bus safely and confidently. Through this program, young children learned rules, expectations, and best practices in an engaging way, helping to prevent accidents and reduce anxiety for students and parents alike.

Bill, the son of Madelyne and John Kyser, grew up alongside his brothers, John and Michael. He earned a business degree from the University of Nebraska and chose a path of service, joining the United States Army. Stationed in Germany, he developed both a lifelong passion for transportation and a deep love for the woman who would become his wife, Mary.

While serving in Germany, Bill became fascinated by how people and goods move safely and reliably, a curiosity that became his calling. He later completed a master’s degree at the University of Houston–Clear Lake, preparing him to lead in the complex and critically important field of school transportation. He spent the majority of his career in public education, first as Assistant Director of Transportation for Houston ISD and then as Director of Transportation for Katy ISD.

William “Bill” Kyser leaves behind a legacy of love, kindness and public service. He is survived by his wife, Mary Kyser, a devoted educator of 31 years, 14 of which were spent in Katy ISD, and by their children, Kristen Azari and Kevin Kyser.