Dr. James C. McKinney was editor of the National Association of Teachers of Singing’s Journal of Singing from 1987 to 1998 and served as the President of NATS in 1997-1998. He was a Master Teacher for the Intern Program in 1992 and 1997.

Dr. McKinney taught at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for 44 years and was dean of the school of church music 37 years, serving at the seminary from 1950-94. He also performed as a soloist in numerous recitals, oratorios, and church concerts nationally and internationally.

“He was one of the greatest statesmen and visionaries of this century,” said Benjamin Harlan, dean of the school of church music.

Dr. McKinney earned his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from Louisiana State University in 1950 and his doctorate from the University of Southern California in 1969. His honors include being named to the American Academy of Teachers of Singing; being selected “Collegiate Music Teacher of the Year” by the Fort Worth Music Teachers Association; being honored by the University of Southern California in recognition of professional service, leadership and performance; receiving a “Distinguished Service Award” from the school of church music in 1992; and receiving the W. Hines Sims Award, the highest honor of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference, in 1994. His publications include “The Diagnosis and Correction of Vocal Faults,” “Five Practical Lessons in Singing,” six music theory books, two programmed learning kits for voice instruction and several magazine articles.

An active bass soloist, McKinney appeared in oratorio, opera, and recital in Texas and around the world. His solo appearances stretched across the South and Southwest, including California, and from there to Israel, Jordan, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Taipei, and Tokyo. Dean McKinney was internationally recognized in the area of voice pedagogy. He was a faculty member at the first International Congress of Voice Teachers in Strasbourg, France and since 1988 had served on the faculty of the Voice Foundation Symposium on the Care of the Professional Voice in New York City and Philadelphia.
McKinney married the former Elizabeth Richmond in 1949 and they had three sons, James, Jr., Timothy, and John.

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