



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
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## Meier-Mounsey Endowed Chair Established for Lifesaving Pediatric Surgery

“I’m going to give him the same care that I would give my own grandson, nothing less.”

- Donald E. Meier, M.D.

Pete and Anne Mounsey left El Paso with a priceless gift – their son’s life. Twenty-four hours after arriving in Puerto Vallarta with their three children - eight-year-old Gracey and seven-and-a-half month old twins, Mary Sarah and Peter - their son Peter developed a life-threatening intestinal blockage. With no surgeons, much less a pediatric surgeon available, the Mounsey family waited 17 hours before boarding a flight-for-life plane which would return them to Denver. Peter experienced severe trauma during flight, which made it clear that once they touched ground in El Paso, their child’s fate would lie in the hands of one man – Donald E. Meier, M.D., pediatric surgeon and a professor of clinical surgery at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso.

“I’m going to give him the same care that I would give my own grandson, nothing less,” is what Dr. Meier said to the Mounseys after ordering a final ultrasound at Providence Memorial Hospital that re-confirmed the need for immediate surgery. The surgery went well, and Dr. Meier spoke with the Mounseys at length, methodically explaining how he had performed the surgery, and answering their questions. After several days, Peter’s functions returned, and they headed home.

“Through all of our experiences this past year, we’ve come to know that it’s not just *what* doctors do, but *how* they do what they do that truly makes a difference in people’s lives,” said Pete Mounsey. This led Pete and his wife Ann to honor the lifelong work of Dr. Meier by establishing a \$1.5 million Endowed Chair in Pediatric Surgery. The dedication took place on Friday, November 9 at the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso.

“The Meier/Mounsey Chair in Pediatric Surgery first and foremost celebrates the life and work of Dr. Donald E. Meier, someone who exemplifies the *how-to-do-it* part of being a health care provider,” said Mounsey. “The Chair also celebrates the life of our son, Peter, who in his short life has had many challenges but has faced them all down with a heroic will to live.”

The endowed chair is the most prestigious award an academic institution can grant one of its physicians or scientists. It will enable Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso to attract pediatric surgeons like Dr. Meier to El Paso and Texas Tech, support the teaching of outstanding patient care by physicians at Texas Tech, buttress research in the area of pediatric surgery and encourage chair holders to utilize their surgical skill and teaching abilities on a charitable basis around the world.

*Peter R. Mounsey is an attorney and CEO for MAK-J-Energy Operating Company, an oil and gas exploration service with operations in Wyoming, Colorado and Texas. Anne E. Mounsey has served as a member of Markwest Hydrocarbon’s Board of Directors since October 2004. Before that, Mrs. Mounsey was Manager of Marketing and Business Development in this company run by her father.*