

Elaine Marshall Is America's Fourth-Richest Woman But Nobody Knew It

Bonnie Kavoussi | September 19, 2012

Apparently it's possible to be a billionaire and escape the notice of billionaire rankings for some time.

Bloomberg News revealed on Monday that the reclusive [Elaine Tetteimer Marshall](#), 70, of Dallas, is the fourth-richest woman in the country and 69th-richest woman in the world. She has never before appeared on an international wealth ranking, despite being worth more than \$12.7 billion, according to Bloomberg.

That makes her 222,807 times richer than [the median U.S. household](#).

Marshall's billions come from her [15 percent stake in Koch Industries](#). She secured her fortune by marrying into wealth and [gained control](#) of the stake after her husband E. Pierce Marshall, who inherited it from his father, died in 2006. Strangely enough, she is the daughter-in-law of Anna Nicole Smith, the late model and stripper who launched a series of lawsuits against the Marshalls to try to secure part of that fortune.

You can read [Bloomberg News' full report on Marshall here](#).

For her part, Marshall denies that she is worth more than \$12.7 billion. [She told the Dallas Morning News](#) through a spokesman that the valuation was "ridiculous."

[Charles and David Koch](#), co-owners of Koch Industries, are the 7th- and 8th-richest people in the world and are each worth \$37.7 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. [They are among the most influential donors](#) in the Republican Party.

Cato mentioned in a slide show

The Forbes 400: The Richest People In America: 5. David Koch - \$31 Billion

UPSource: Diversified

Age: 72

Residence: New York City

Manhattan's richest resident David Koch is full of surprises: The New York delegate at the Republican National Convention told Politico that week that he believes in gay marriage and in raising taxes to pay down the federal debt. Earlier in the year, he and his brother Charles had sued the conservative Cato Institute, which they helped found in 1977, over issues of control; the parties later settled. Despite any drama, Koch Industries, the second largest privately held company in the U.S. with interests in pipelines, refineries, fertilizer and consumer products like Brawny paper towel and Dixie cups, continues to generate rich cash flow and pay down debt. David, who is executive vice president, is worth \$6 billion more this year thanks to an increase in the company's value. A prostate cancer survivor, he says his biggest philanthropic contributions so far go toward a "moon shot" campaign to finding a cure for cancer, to which he's donated more than \$200 million.