

A Celebration of the Life of
HARLIN ROYCE GRUETZMACHER

Thursday, February 6, 2025

June 19, 1933



January 29, 2025

OPENING HYMN “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”
LSB 790 vs. 1-3, 5

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Pastor: The Lord is my shepherd;

People: I shall not want.

Pastor: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;

People: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

Pastor: He restoreth my soul;

People: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Pastor: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;

People: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Pastor: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;

People: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Pastor: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;

People: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 23

PRAYER

HYMN “Just as I Am, without One Plea” LSB 570

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ecclesiastes 3:1-12
Romans 1:16-17; 8:1-12
John 14:1-6

HYMN “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” LSB 657

MESSAGE Rev. John Davis

HYMN “Blessed be the Tie that Binds” LSB 649

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

HYMN “For All the Saints” LSB 677 vs. 1-2, 4, 6-8

✠ To God be the glory! ✠

Pastors Rev. John Davis
Rev. Ben Spaulding

Organist Susan Terry

Elder Ricky Nietsche

All are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.
Interment will take place at Houston National Cemetery on Tuesday, February 18, in a private family ceremony.

Those wishing to make memorial gifts may do so to
Memorial Lutheran Church, 5810 Third Street, Katy, TX 77493,
<https://mlckaty.com/giveMemorials>

HARLIN ROYCE GRUETZMACHER



Harlin Royce Gruetzmacher passed away peacefully on January 29, 2025. He lived a devoted Christian life as a member of numerous Lutheran churches, with Memorial Lutheran Church Katy, TX as his most recent congregation. Harlin was born in Yorktown, TX on June 19, 1933, to Herman H. and Elvira (Hillmer) Gruetzmacher and was baptized on August 13, 1933, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Yorktown. Harlin was confirmed, also at St. Paul's, on March 21, 1948. He graduated from Yorktown High School in 1950. On June 14, 1953, Harlin married the love of his life, Carlyn A. Voelkel.

Harlin farmed with his father until he was drafted into the U.S. Army in August 1953. After Basic Training in Fort Bliss, TX, Harlin was trained at the artillery school to maintain the onboard Skysweeper RADAR of the Army's 75 mm anti-aircraft weapon system. He deployed to the U.S. Army Far East Command at Nagoya, Japan, later relocating to the U.S. Air Force base on Hokkaido Island, Japan.

After his discharge from the Army in 1955, Harlin and Carlyn settled in Yorktown where Harlin returned to work with his father on the family farm. Harlin began working for Texaco later that same year and served with the company in various roles. Starting out as a surveyor and seismic operator, Harlin and Carlyn lived throughout TX, Colorado, and California until 1968. In that year, Harlin and Carlyn settled in Liverpool, TX as he began his career at sea with Texaco as an offshore crew chief on a boat specially constructed for Texaco to conduct seismic surveys of offshore land tracks. He served at sea for Texaco until 1993 when he was offered a position at Texaco's Laboratory in Bellaire, TX. He remained at this location until his retirement from Texaco in 1995 after 40 years with the company. They remained living in Liverpool until 2018 when they moved to their current home in Katy, TX.

After Harlin retired from Texaco in 1995, he and Carlyn were very involved with Alvin Lutheran Church and were avid travelers and antiquers with their circle of friends from the church. Harlin was heavily involved in managing the building of Alvin's new sanctuary. He served for many years on the planning committee for the church's annual Octoberfest fund raiser. Harlin had a passion for the repair and restoration of antique clocks. He was a perfectionist when it came to his clocks and for a time, Harlin had a business repairing antique clocks for others who sought his expertise.

Harlin was preceded in death by his parents and sister Vernell (and Calvin) Rayes. He is survived by his beloved wife, Carlyn; his brother, Frank (and Susan) Gruetzmacher; his sister, Glenna (and Don) Hartman; his son Randall Gruetzmacher, and his son, Anthony Gruetzmacher; his son, Jeffrey (and Donna) Gruetzmacher, and their children CDR Jeffrey (and Jordan) Gruetzmacher, USN, and Emily (and Stephen) Spencer; his son David (and Donna) Gruetzmacher and their children, Jennifer (and Matt) Stanley, Scott Gruetzmacher, and Mathew Gruetzmacher. Harlin is also survived by 12 great-grandchildren as well as numerous nephews and nieces.

Harlin led a Christian life, providing a model of servanthood, compassion, love, and grace to his family and all who knew him. His 71-year marriage to Carlyn was one of devoted Christian love, partnership, and constant companionship – an inspiring example for his children and grandchildren. He was a devoted father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, always eager to gather with those he loved. Harlin was quick to lend a helping hand and was never too busy to take the time to pitch in where needed. Harlin's faith was on display throughout his life, even when his time on earth was nearing an end. He will be sorely missed by his family and friends.

✠ To God be the glory! ✠