

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF  
RICHARD DOUGLAS BJERKE, SR.  
AUGUST 23, 1943 – NOVEMBER 29, 2022



DECEMBER 3, 2022  
2:00 P.M.  
BROUSSARD'S  
2000 McFADDIN AVENUE  
BEAUMONT, TEXAS

*The Celebrant says*

I am the Resurrection and I am the Life, says the Lord.  
Whoever has faith in me shall have life,  
even though he die.  
And everyone who has life,  
and has committed himself to me in faith,  
shall not die for ever.

As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives  
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.  
After my awaking, he will raise me up;  
and in my body I shall see God.  
I myself shall see, and my eyes behold him  
who is my friend and not a stranger.

For none of us has life in himself,  
and none becomes his own master when he dies.  
For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord,  
and if we die, we die in the Lord.  
So, then, whether we live or die,  
we are the Lord's possession.

Happy from now on  
are those who die in the Lord!  
So it is, says the Spirit,  
for they rest from their labors.

*Celebrant*        The Lord be with you.  
*People*         And also with you.  
*Celebrant*       Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother Richard. We thank you for giving him to us, his family and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **A Reading from the Book of Isaiah (61:1-3)**

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

### **A Reading from the First Book of John (3:1-2)**

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

### **Psalm 23 (Read in unison.)**

The Lord is my shepherd; \*

I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures \*

and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul \*

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I shall fear no evil; \*

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those

who trouble me; \*

you have anointed my head with oil,

and my cup is running over.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days

of my life, \*

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**The Gospel** (*The people stand.*)

The Reverend Tracie Middleton

*A Deacon or Priest says*

*People*                    The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to John  
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going. Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” *John 14:1-6*

*People*                    The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**The Homily**

The Reverend Joy Walker Miller

**The Apostles’ Creed** (*Please stand.*)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**The Prayers** (*Remain standing.*)

For our brother Richard, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, “I am the Resurrection and I am the Life.”

Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Richard, and dry the tears of those who weep.

*Hear us, Lord.*

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend, comfort us in our sorrow.

*Hear us, Lord.*

You raised the dead to life; give to our brother eternal life.

*Hear us, Lord.*

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our brother to the joys of heaven.

*Hear us, Lord.*

Our brother was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him fellowship with all your saints.

*Hear us, Lord.*

He was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant him a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

*Hear us, Lord.*

Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our brother; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

*The Celebrant adds a concluding prayer.*

**The Blessing**

**“Still the One”**

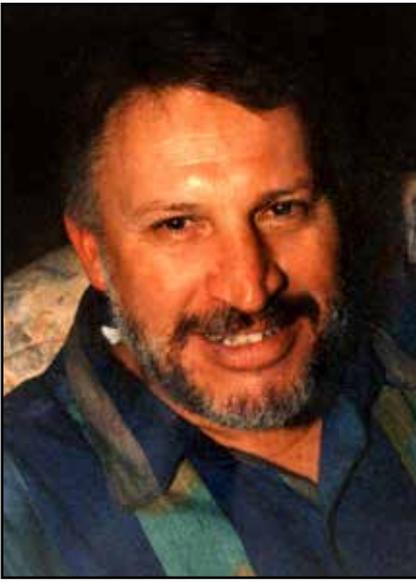
*Shania Twain*

**The Dismissal**

<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Postlude**





*Richard Douglas Bjerke, Sr.*, of Lumberton, died Tuesday, November 29, 2022. He was born on August 23, 1943, in Borden, Texas.

After graduating high school, he couldn't afford college, so he worked for 4 years at Dow Chemical in Houston. He knew he needed that college degree to get anywhere in life so he tried out for several college football teams hoping one of them would offer him a full scholarship. That offer came from Lamar Tech (University now) where he played for 4 years and racked up several honors while doing so. He earned a business degree and, in 2002

was inducted into Lamar's Athletic Hall of Honor. Richard was an awesome example of determination and perseverance.

His love of the game continued through his life by officiating high school football for many years and though his calls on the field weren't always popular his fairness and high expectations for sportsmanlike conduct was well respected.

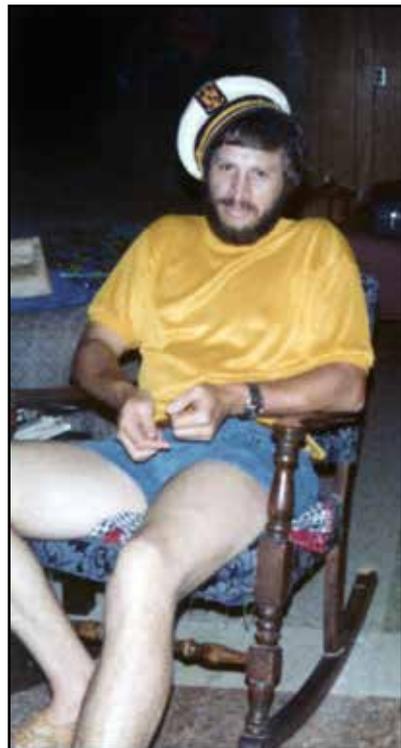
His unexpected jokes, fierce love for all his family, talent for teaching instead of just doing, as well as the joy he held for the love of his life, Phyllis, to whom he was married for 54 very happy years, brought as much joy to all of us who love him. He was truly a gentle gentleman.

Richard is survived by his loving wife, Phyllis; father, Edwin Votaw; children Karron Bjerke-Swartz, Pamela Foretich and Richard "Rick" Bjerke, Jr., and wife Gretchen; grandchildren Jake Nelson, Brooke Bjerke, Rhonda Morgan Nelson, Paige Ruiz, Truitt Bjerke, Zoe Bjerke, Piper Bjerke and Kellie Bjerke; great-grandchildren Dax, Brody and Celine; sisters Charlotte Rau, Ginger Friemel, Lisa Moellenberndt and husband Frank and Sherry Huebel and husband Ronnie; brother Charles Hoffman and wife Barbara; along with a host of nieces and nephews.

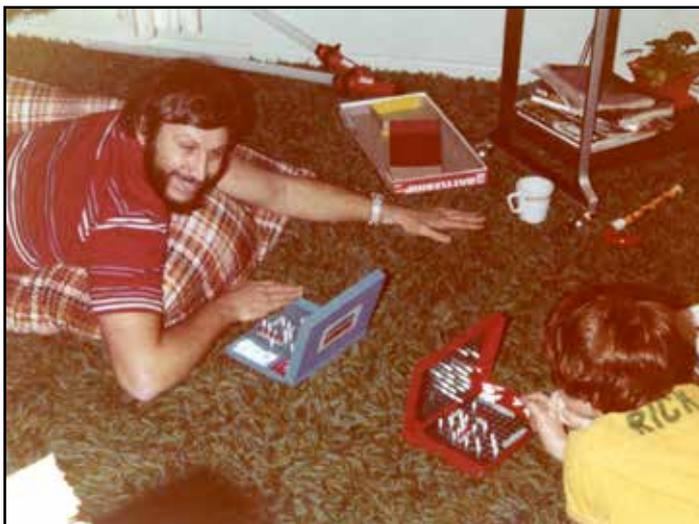
He was preceded in death by his mother, Gertrude Votaw; brother Roger Hoffman; sister Pam Jean Hughes; and brother-in-laws, Frankie Friemel and Roy Rau.











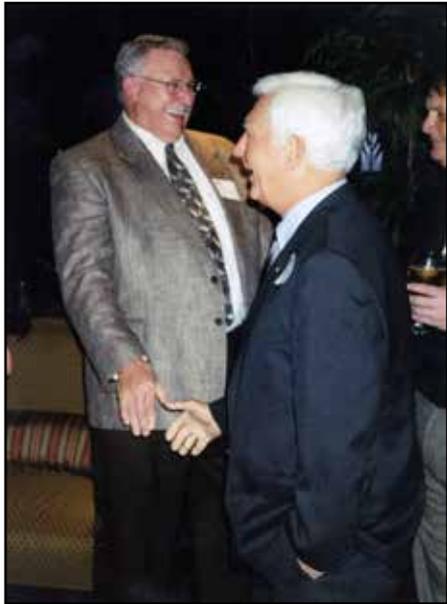
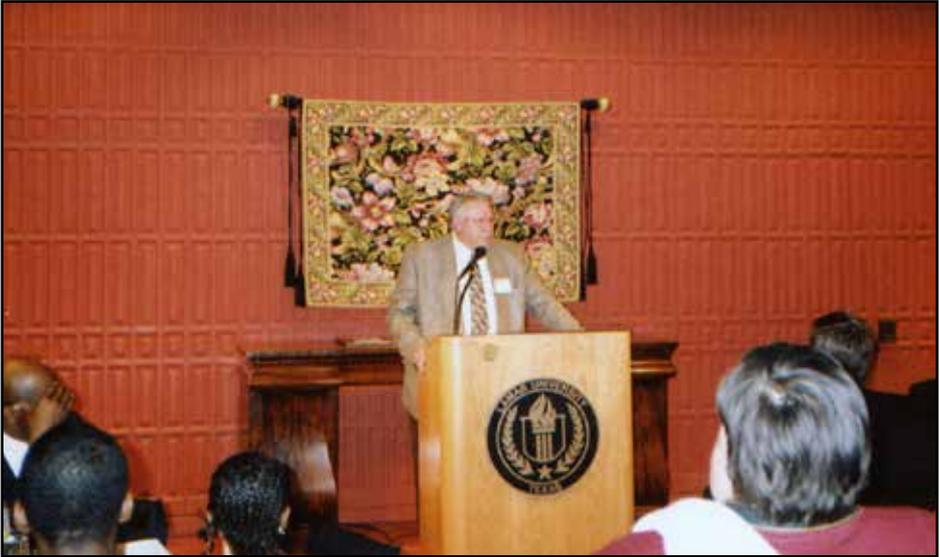


**CARDINAL BECOMES VIKING**—Former Lamar Tech ace Richard Bjerke of Weimar will be playing in the defensive secondary this year for the Golden Viking professional football club. The 6-2, 195-pound Bjerke was named to the All-Southland Conference team as a linebacker in 1967.

Bjerke will be in the defensive backfield Aug. 1 when the Vikings meet Lake Charles in Gretna Stadium in the exhibition season opener.







## ◆ **BOUQUETS & BRICKBATS**

# Lamar adds six inductees to sports elite

## Wichita Falls woman admits big theft of veterans benefits

### Bouquets go to:

◆ Six Lamar University athletics greats who will be inducted into the Cardinal Hall of Honor Jan. 30 at the Mary and John Gray Library. They include Richard Bjerke, football, 1964-67; Barry Collins, track, 1967-71, 1980-99; Larry Haynes, football, 1978-79; Junior Holmes, track, 1976-79; John Payton, assistant football coach, 1970-82; and Howard "Boo" Robinson, football, 1976-79, track, 1980-81.

◆ Chelsea Beggs, 15, of Vidor who was named the Region V Texas High School Rodeo Association Rodeo Queen. She will compete for the state championship in Abilene this summer.

◆ Linda Christian, a Lumberton resident and Odom Academy special education teacher, who frequently brings her three macaws and two sun conures to school to show them to students. It's a special time for many students who rarely get trips to a zoo or aviary.

◆ Beaumonted Ed Persla, a senior guard for Princeton University, who has been named the Ivy League men's basketball Player of the Week. He averaged 20.5 points in two games last week.

◆ More than 50 volunteers with the Julie Rogers "Gift of Life" program who spend their days making teddy bears that are sold and donated to cancer patients and homeless children. Proceeds go back to the program, which offers free mammograms and prostate cancer screenings.



◆ Volunteer Voices of Beaumont, a group of about a dozen retired people who regularly entertain area seniors with music from past eras. They have maintained a weekly practice and performance schedule for four years, taking breaks only during major holidays.

◆ The Hot Hearts '04 youth conference, which will conclude today at the Beaumont Civic Center. The event, presented by the Golden Triangle Baptist Association, is expected to draw more than 5,000 visitors.

◆ The annual Beaumont History Conference, which will be held today in the Parish Hall of St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Topics will include desegregation, labor and politics.

### Brickbats go to:

◆ Tracy M. Oliver, of Wichita Falls, who pleaded guilty to several charges in a scheme to steal more than \$700,000 in health care benefit checks from a veterans medical center in Arizona. She faces up to 35 years in prison and \$250,000 in fines. Authorities said the woman and her mother channeled \$718,000 in checks from the Southern Arizona Veterans Health Care Systems to their fake company.

◆ Former Tennessee state Rep. Ronnie Davis, who pleaded guilty Wednesday in federal court to conspiring to sell fake passports to two Texas businessmen and to supplying drugs to his girlfriend and co-conspirator. Davis, 59, a Republican, served 18 years in the Tennessee House of Representatives before being unseated in the 2002 election after his arrest in the passport case. His attorney said Davis faces a sentence of between 33 and 43 months in prison.

*Send Bouquets and Brickbats to The Enterprise, P.O. Box 3071, Beaumont, Texas, 77704 or e-mail them to [ttschinger@hearstnp.com](mailto:ttschinger@hearstnp.com)*

**Memorial Contributions**  
*American Diabetes Association*  
*P.O. Box 7023*  
*Merrifield, Virginia 22116-7023*

~  
*An Organization of One's Choice*



*Broussard's*  
Established 1889

Please sign Mr. Bjerke's guest book and share your memories at  
[broussards1889.com](http://broussards1889.com)