



Neal Jacobs

July 30, 1936 - January 26, 2023

Mass of Christian Burial

Wednesday, February 1, 2023 10:00 a.m.

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church

Sour Lake, Texas

Processional

“Be Not Afraid”

GATHERING RITE

GREETING AND BLESSING OF THE BODY

As a reminder of Neal’s Baptism, his casket has been sprinkled with Baptismal water. Then, a pall, recalling the white garment of his Baptism, is placed on the casket.

“If we have died with Christ, we are also to live with Christ in glory.”

Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 25:6a,7-9

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 145

Response: *“The Lord is gracious and merciful.”*

Second Reading

Romans 14:7-9,10b-12

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:31-46

Homily

Prayer of the Faithful

Response: *“Lord, hear our prayer”*

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts	<i>“The Spirit Song”</i>
Eucharistic Acclamations	Holy, Holy, Holy Mystery of Faith Great Amen
Communion Rite	The Lord’s Prayer Sign of Peace Lamb of God
Communion	<i>“One Bread, One Body”</i>
Meditation	<i>“Ave Maria”</i>
Prayer After Communion	

FINAL COMMENDATION

Invitation of Prayer

Song of Farewell:

PRESIDER: Saints of God, come to his aid. Hasten to meet him angels of the Lord.

ASSEMBLY: RECEIVE HIS SOUL AND PRESENT HIM TO GOD THE MOST HIGH.

PRESIDER: May Christ, who called you, take you to Himself, and may the angels lead you to the bosom of Abraham.

ASSEMBLY: RECEIVE HIS SOUL AND PRESENT HIM TO GOD THE MOST HIGH.

PRESIDER: Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

ASSEMBLY: RECEIVE HIS SOUL AND PRESENT HIM TO GOD THE MOST HIGH.

Prayer of Commendation

PROCESSION TO PLACE OF COMMITTAL

Recessional *“Amazing Grace”*



Neal Jacobs, 86, of Sour Lake, died Thursday, January 26, 2023, at Christus Southeast Texas-St. Elizabeth, Beaumont.

A good man took his final steps home today. While he may not have led a life that captured the attention of the popular culture, if you were lucky enough to know him well, you are living a much richer life today because of that relationship.

On the morning of July 30th, 1936, Dr. S.W. Hill rushed to John and Dorothy

Jacobs' farm outside of Regent, North Dakota, to deliver their second child. When the doctor left the farm that evening, Maryann had a baby brother, and John and Dorothy had their first son. Neal Jacobs had made his appearance. This small family would not remain small for very long. He was followed by Cletus, Julia, George, Jerry, Bob, Jane, Tony, and Deloris, with little Bonnie capping off the family of thirteen.

On the farm he was instilled with an abiding faith in Christ, a strong work ethic, and a self-discipline that would serve him well for his entire life.

He attended school in a one room schoolhouse that encompassed 1st through 8th grades. When he had completed the 8th grade, it became necessary for him to suspend his education and go to work for neighboring farmers to help support the family. He was allowed to keep a small portion of his earnings, but the vast majority was rolled into the family budget.

In 1955, at 19 years old, he joined the U.S. Army. There he attained his GED and learned auto mechanics. He served as a soldier in the 82nd airborne division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he made 69 parachute jumps. In 1959, he was honorably discharged from the army

at the rank of SP5 (specialist) and returned to Hettinger, North Dakota, where he began his career as an automotive mechanic.

In 1960 he married Janice Caley and started his own family. First came Dave in 1961, then Bill in 1962, and Mike in 1963. Unable to support his family on a small-town North Dakota mechanic's salary, he followed his brother-in-law to Beaumont, Texas, and went to work for Kinsel Ford as a full line mechanic. His work ethic and discipline quickly propelled him to the role of shop foreman and from there he went on to run the service departments of several local dealerships. He had built up a following of loyal customers who followed him from one dealership to the next giving him a huge advantage each time he made his next move.

While his success in his professional life soared, he misplaced some of the priorities in his personal life for a time. His wife and young children had left and returned to North Dakota. He was never able to repair the relationship with his wife and the marriage was dissolved.

In 1976, he opened Neal Jacobs Automotive on Mariposa St. (now M.L. King Blvd.) in Beaumont. That long list of loyal customers made him so successful that in 1984 he opened his second shop on College St., also in Beaumont. He was never more in his element than when he was welcoming the next customer in the door of one of his shops. Some businesses attach a bell to the door, so they know when a customer walks in. His employees knew a customer had walked in when they heard his voice above all of the air powered impact wrenches and racing engines shouting "HELLO MR. <YOUR NAME HERE>"

Along the way he did carve out some personal time and in 1986, against his better judgement, agreed to go on a blind date where he met Gloria Fontenot. It is a rare thing for someone to find exactly the right person at exactly the right time in life, but that is precisely what had happened. Neal's life was forever divided into 'before Gloria' and 'after Gloria' and you can be assured that he would choose 'after Gloria' every day of his life.

If he had lost his way in his personal life ‘before Gloria’, he had found it and more ‘after Gloria’. It has been said that “life, like any game, can be won in the second half”. Neal stood as a sterling example of how to win life in the second half. And what a second half he had.

He and Gloria were married in 1987 and created a home that became the center of family life for them, their 8 children, their 17 grandchildren, and 32 great grandchildren for decades to come. Until hurricane Ike took their beach house, that was the destination of choice anytime the weather permitted. Fishing was always the activity of the day and cooking the day’s catch was always a joy to Neal. Of one thing you could be certain, if there was a gathering at Neal and Gloria’s, you were going to eat exceptionally well.

His smoked briskets were legendary and he often cooked them for church and charitable events. For over 20 years he spearheaded the annual raffling of a riding mower and trailer. He spent a great deal of time hauling them to assorted festivals and shopping centers selling all the tickets he possibly could. The proceeds were always used to buy Christmas gifts for the children of incarcerated parents. There were few things he enjoyed more than seeing the faces of the children receiving those gifts.

He became very involved in his local Knights of Columbus council, even serving as Grand Knight for a period of time. He devoted a great deal of time to his church in whatever capacity was asked of him and renewed his faith along the way. The high point of his walk with Christ was the A.C.T.S. retreat he attended several years ago. It was clear that he had been greatly moved by his experience that week.

If there was just one quality that would describe Neal ‘after Gloria’, it would be his willingness to do absolutely anything that was needed to help a family member or friend to make life a little easier, a little better, or just a little more bearable. There are some people in this life who, once you know they are involved in a situation, you just know everything will somehow be OK. That was Neal Jacobs ‘after Gloria’.

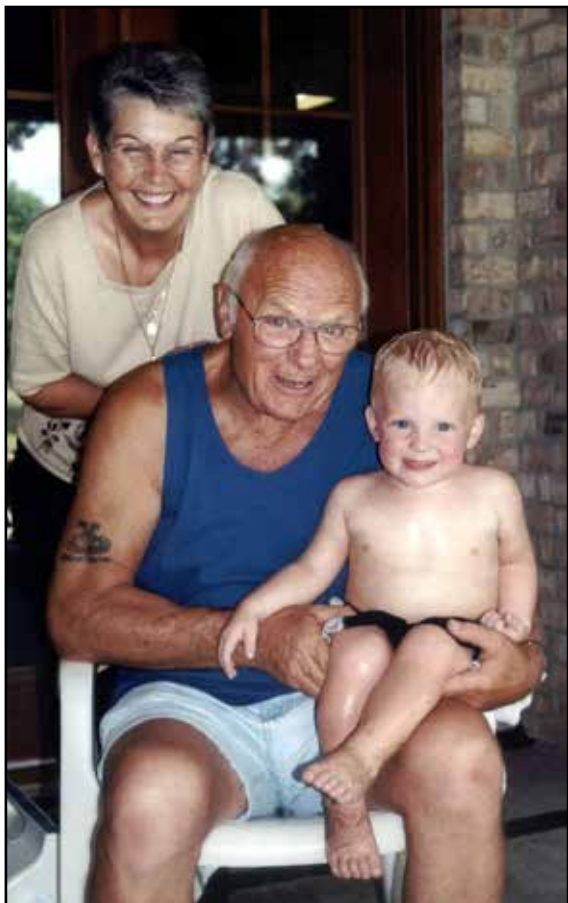
So, while the popular culture is sure to live their entire lives never hearing his name, the people he cared about most will never forget him or what he meant to his family and friends. Dad, we hope and pray that you knew just exactly how much we all loved you.

Survivors include his wife, Gloria Jacobs; children, David Jacobs and his wife, Stephanie, of Great Bend, Kansas; William “Bill” Jacobs and his wife, Linda, of Derby, Kansas; Mike Jacobs and his wife, Diana, of Spring; Dianne McClusky and her husband, Mike, of Sour Lake; Bryan Leger of Winnie; Darren Leger and his wife, Sharon; of Sulphur, Louisiana; Sandra Leger of Beaumont; and Madlyn Sykes and her husband, Miles, of Sour Lake; grandchildren, Sarah Waller and her husband, Jake; Amy Patzner and her husband, Matt; Jonathan Jacobs and his wife, Kaitlyn; Matthew Jacobs and his wife, Kristina; Shalena Jacobs; Nathaniel Jacobs; Nicholas Jacobs; Christopher McClusky and his wife, Nicole; Sarah Buser and her husband, Shawn; Barron Leger; Stephanie Wright; Jared Leger and his wife, Jennifer; Adam Leger and his wife, Erica; Jordon Leger and his wife, Carla; Dallas Cain and her husband, Jonathan; Dr. Maggie Brown and her husband, Luke; and Myla Sykes; thirty-two great-grandchildren; siblings, Cletus Jacobs and his wife, Flo, of Sundance, Wyoming; Judy Schnell and her husband, Leo, of Highland Ranch, Colorado; Jane Geissler and her husband, Al, of Bozeman, Montana; George Jacobs and his wife, Carol, of Beulah, North Dakota; Deloris Neilson and her husband, Rod, of Rapid City, South Dakota; Bob Jacobs of Woodville; Tony Jacobs and his wife, Bobbie, of Colorado Springs, Colorado; and Bonnie Fischer and her husband, Jr, of Bismarck, North Dakota.

He is preceded in death by his parents; sister, Maryann Krebs; and brother, Jerry Jacobs.

















Celebrant	Reverend Otieno Polycarp-fmh
Placing of the Pall	Sarah Buser, Stephanie Wright, Dallas Cain
Gift Bearers	Tony Jacobs, Judy Schnell, Jane Geissler, Cletus Jacobs, Deloris Nielsen, Bonnie Fischer, Bob Jacobs
Lectors	Myla Sykes and Dr. Maggie Sykes
Music Ministers	Lequita Andrews Baldwin and Felicia Andrews Runnels
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Clay Kuykendahl
Pallbearers	Jonathan Jacobs, Matthew Jacobs, Nathaniel Jacobs Nicholas Jacobs, Jared Leger, Adam Leger Jordon Leger, Chris McClusky
Honorary Pallbearers	John Yates and Dwayne Going

Interment

China Cemetery
China, Texas

Military Honors

United States Army

Memorial Contributions

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church
P.O. Box 1359
Sour Lake, Texas 77659



Please sign Mr. Jacobs' guest book and share your memories at
broussards1889.com