



## Emil Gustav Richter Jr.

July 25, 1937 - July 27, 2025

Emil Gustav Richter Jr., 88, passed away on July 27, 2025, at VITAS Healthcare Inpatient Hospice in The Woodlands, Texas. He was welcomed peacefully into the arms of Jesus, reunited again with the wife he so dearly loved.

Emil was born on July 25, 1937, in Giddings, Texas, the second of three children to Emil Sr. and Helen (Meuth) Richter. Growing up, Emil loved sports and excelled at both golf and football. Lettering all four years, he was part of the Giddings Buffaloes 1951 Texas Class A State Football Championship undefeated team as a freshman, and named Running Back of the Week by the Austin American Statesman as a senior for rushing 272 yards in one game. Not just an athlete, Emil was also a great singer. He sang baritone in the Giddings High School All State Choir, and was a member of the Barber Shoppers at Blinn College.

In 1956, Emil met the love of his life, Mary Wozniak, at a CYO gathering in Wallis, Texas. She was a senior in high school, and he was a freshman at Blinn College. They married on February 15, 1958, at St. Margaret's Catholic Church in Giddings, Texas.

Emil was a devoted husband and loving father of four children, three sons and one daughter. In 1958, he started his work career in Houston, Texas, at

Houston Lighting and Power Company as a records clerk, then moved to Columbia Gulf Transmission Company before transitioning to the US Post Office as a mail sorter. In February 1966, Emil moved his growing family to Freeport, Texas, to work for the Dow Chemical Company. In 1977, while working full time and commuting an hour each way three nights a week, Emil earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from The University of Houston at Clear Lake. This allowed him to move into a managerial position in truck and rail shipping, where he remained until retiring from Dow Chemical with over 30 years of service. Emil always found time for his family. Whether as a scout leader, baseball or softball coach, or taking his family fishing or to the beach, Emil put his wife and children first.

In retirement, Emil and Mary moved into their beautiful country home on 27 acres of land outside of Smithville, Texas. During that time, he was an active member of St. Mary's Catholic church in Pin Oak. He enjoyed the country life, especially gardening, fishing, and barbequing for friends and family. He also loved to watch his favorite teams, the Astros and his Houston Cougars.

Emil was preceded in death by his wife of 67 years Mary (Wozniak) Richter, his parents Emil Sr. and Helen (Meuth) Richter, his sister Rose (Richter) Thies and her husband Howard, and a baby brother born into heaven.

Emil is survived by his sons Jim Richter and wife Janis of Overland Park, Kansas, Greg Richter and wife Debbie of Austin, Steve Richter and wife Marisa of Lake Jackson, and daughter Kim VanDevender and husband Eric of Magnolia. Grandchildren: Lauren Strutz and husband Jason, Kristen Nelson and husband Ryan, Kate Duran and husband Jonathan, Beth Di Rico and husband Anthony, Steven Richter and wife Sarah, Kevin Richter and wife Catie, Jason Richter, Kyle VanDevender, Kelly Young and husband Gabriel, Ivan VanDevender, Marta VanDevender, Misha VanDevender. Great grandchildren: Travis Duran, David Duran, Leonardo Di Rico, Margot Di Rico,

Eli Richter, Evan Richter, Jason Richter, Paige Richter, Ellen Young, and three more blessings arriving this fall. Sister Kathy (Richter) Kerr and husband Ted. He also leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews, and many other family members and friends who will sadly miss him.

Funeral services for Emil are scheduled for 10:30 am on August 14, 2025, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Pin Oak with Father Javier Toscano officiating. A Rosary will be held before the service at 10:00 am. Burial will follow at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery- Pin Oak

732 FM 2104  
Smithville, TX 78957

# Previous Events

## Rosary

AUG 14. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church - Pin Oak  
732 FM 2104  
Smithville, TX 78957

## Church Service

AUG 14. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church - Pin Oak  
732 FM 2104  
Smithville, TX 78957

# Tribute Wall

VF

“ *Violet Frosch lit a candle in memory of Emil Richter*



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**Violet Frosch** - July 31, 2025 at 12:26 PM

JK

“ *I am so sorry to hear we lost Emil. I always enjoyed talking sports and gardening with him after church each Saturday in Pin Oak. He was an asset to the community and St. Mary's. He will be missed!*

*Jerry Krchnak*

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**Jerry Krchnak** - July 31, 2025 at 10:33 AM

RS

“ *You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

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**Rebecca Sherrill** - July 31, 2025 at 08:54 AM