



Harold Lee Parsley Jr.

June 21, 1937 - February 22, 2022

Harold Lee Parsley, Jr., age 84, a Rockdale entrepreneur, passed away Tuesday afternoon, February 22, 2022 at Baylor Scott & White Hospital in Temple.

Services for Harold will be 10:00 a.m. Monday, February 28, 2022 at Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home in Rockdale with Pastor Barry Methvin officiating and Miller Bassler will give the Eulogy. Burial will follow in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery next to his wife and partner, Martha. Visitation is 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Sunday, February 27th, at the funeral home.

Pallbearers are Lin Perry, Jacob Parsley, Britt Schneer, Duane Gerthe, Paul Johnson, JD Newlin, Ernie Cates and Ron McCoy. Honorary Pallbearers are Nick Gabriel, Bob Burnett, George Brabham, James Early, Bill Cooke, Carroll Glaser and Roger Whitmore.

Memorials may be made to the Rockdale Volunteer Fire Department, 301 N. Wilcox Street, Rockdale, Texas 76567.

Harold was born June 21, 1937 in Waldron, Arkansas to Mary Helene (Monroe) and Harold Lee Parsley, Sr. He was a 1955 graduate from Paul Pewitt High School in Naples, Texas and while there he participated in the one act play and won state two years in a row. He graduated from Southwestern

College in Georgetown in 1959 with a degree in Liberal Arts Speech/Drama.

On February 9, 1963, he married the love of his life, Martha Kay Breazeale in Ore City, Texas. They ended up between Galveston and Houston working in real estate for 9-11 months, then on to Dangerfield. Leaving there, they lived in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma for a couple of years where he worked for a newspaper. They came to Rockdale in 1968, where they purchased the Reel Drive Inn Movie Theater and later the Dixie Theater from 1968 to 1979. During this time, he also taught at Rockdale I.S.D. from 1969 to 1976.

They owned car washes in Rockdale, Caldwell, Taylor, Hearne, Rosebud, Bryan and College Station from 1970 to 1988. Then opened Parsley's Pullet Parlor in Rockdale where it became a staple in the community for 19 years. He expanded Parsley's so that he had more room to experiment with the much loved and asked for "Pepper Puppies" in 1982. Parsleys was also found in Giddings and Bryan. Then came Texas Fajita in 1983, where his wife, Martha was there to visit and take your food order. Chicken Express was later opened in 2004 in Rockdale.

Harold was a man of many names and a multitude of talents...aka...Dad, D (Granddaddy), Pepper, Harry, Harold Lee, Mr. Parsley and Mr. P. He loved being a husband, dad, D, Great D, and a friend. He was extremely proud and elated with the accomplishments of his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Harold was extremely intelligent, witty, loving, kind, always had a smile for anyone, and treated everyone equally, no matter who or what. He affectionately took care of his wife, Martha as she fought Chronic Progressive Multiple Sclerosis for 31 years. They were married for 49 years before she passed and they exemplified true love.

He is preceded in death by his lovely wife, Martha Kay Parsley on June 18, 2012 and his parents, Harold Lee Parsley Sr. and Mary Helen Parsley.

Survivors are, daughter, Kathryne Roddam and husband Ward, and son, Lee Parsley all of Rockdale; a brother, Billy Mac Parsley and wife Michelle of Conway, Arkansas, a sister, Dee Ann Cook of Plano; his six grandchildren, Katie Koeneke and husband Daniel, Kassie Vorn Kahl and husband Corey, Kourtney Rathke and husband Chase, Jake Parsley, Jaycee Skubal and husband Cody and Luke Parsley; his four great grandchildren, Caroline Kay Koeneke, Isabel Grace Koeneke, Ellie Kate Vorn Kahl and Jett David Vorn Kahl, along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Harold was the epitome of an entrepreneur, a legend who was admired by many, and an ICON for the community of Rockdale.

He did it HIS way.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 27. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - Rockdale
1041 West Highway 79
Rockdale, TX 76567
(512) 446-5454
phillips_luckey@yahoo.com
<https://www.phillipsandluckey.com/>

Chapel Service

FEB 28. 10:00 AM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - Rockdale
1041 West Highway 79
Rockdale, TX 76567
(512) 446-5454
phillips_luckey@yahoo.com
<https://www.phillipsandluckey.com/>

Burial

FEB 28 (CT)

I.O.O.F. Cemetery
850 N. Main St.
Rockdale, TX 76567

Tribute Wall



“ so very sorry!!he was a great kind man!!Steve&kathyBright(burnet,tx)



Kathy Bright - March 02, 2022 at 04:27 PM

BA

“ My deepest sympathies to the family.

Thank you Mr. Parsley for your immeasurable contribution to our community. You gave the kids of Rockdale a huge gift of entertainment at the theaters.

My Aunt Mary Ann Talley and many more never fried a chicken again thanks to the Pullet Parlor.

Happy trails.

Always a friendly welcome.

Barkley Alford - February 28, 2022 at 08:43 AM

MO

“ Mr. P had a profound impact on who I became as a man, although it's been 33 years since I last worked for Mr. P. I thought I was earning spending money while working at Parsley's, but I was learning the importance of service, ingenuity, quality and most of all how to treat folks who work for you, with you, and those you serve. Not to mention, Mr. P was a mad food genius!!! I still tell stories from those days of all the food experiments and great times.... I am truly blessed to have him and his family in my life. May he have Fair Winds and Following Seas.

Michael Owens

Michael Owens - February 27, 2022 at 10:06 PM

PP

Wish I could of met this amazing cousin. Glad to know him as a cousin on Facebook. Such a nice person.

Peggy Parsley Rippee
Yakima, Wa. Originally from Lead Hill, Ar.

Peggy Parsley Rippee psripee@gmail.com - March 02, 2022 at 03:46 PM



“ Gold Rush Chocolate Gift Basket was purchased for the family of Harold Lee Parsley Jr..



February 27, 2022 at 07:34 PM

CM

“ Mr. Parsley was awesome. He had a smile and hug for everyone. His food creations were fantastic. Mr. Parsley will be missed. He was a shining light.

Cheryl Meyer - February 27, 2022 at 03:28 PM

MV

“ *Our thoughts and prayers for all, may He RIP .*

Mary Frances Vansa - February 27, 2022 at 10:49 AM

MG

“ *Harold was always making the ladies feel special, giving us hugs. Lee enjoyed seeing him going on the rounds. Such a fun man. He will be missed. Much love to your family.*

Margo Gilless - February 26, 2022 at 05:31 PM

AF

“ *Aretha Flores lit a candle in memory of Harold Lee Parsley Jr.*



Aretha Flores - February 25, 2022 at 04:35 PM

TM

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the Parsley family. Kathryn and Lee Lee your dad always had a smile no matter what and one of the friendliness men around. I know you will miss him. God bless all of you. Terry L Mowdy*



Terry L Mowdy - February 25, 2022 at 03:44 PM

MS

“ *What a smile. I never saw him without one. Being an old student of yours at RHS to a good life long mentor to me, you will be missed but never forgotten.*

Mark W. Skubal

Mark Skubal - February 25, 2022 at 01:38 PM

JB

“ I knew Harold Parsley long before I actually met him face to face. I matriculated, as they said back then, at Southwestern University the year after Harold graduated. As fate would have it I joined the same fraternity that Harold had belonged to.

Older members of the fraternity had a reputation for comparing new pledges with older members of the chapter that we did not know. When I was compared to Harold Parsley, I had no idea whether it was a good thing or a bad thing. And it was like that for quiet a while.

Gradually, I came to take it as a compliment. At least there was a certain level of notoriety associated with the Parsley name among the Pikes and even others. While I had no hope of ever matching the Parsley reputation, it being very difficult to imitate someone you had never laid eyes on, being in the same ballpark with Harold Parsley, for me now, could be considered as boasting. Something I almost never do.

It was several years, after I too graduated from Southwestern, that my parents, Oscar and Eleanor Brockman, had something they were dying to share with me. They could hardly wait to tell me that someone had moved to Rockdale who not only had gone to Southwestern University before me and, had been in the same fraternity. When I heard the name Harold Parsley, I knew exactly who they were talking about. I don't think my parents were surprised to know that I knew Harold without ever had met him

It was several years and visits to Rockdale later before I actually met Harold face to face. I told him that I knew about him from talk about him in our common fraternity. He immediately began you back away from what he knew his reputation must have been during his years at Southwestern. It was so funny to hear and see him doing this! Another great performance by Harold the Great Parsley.

Years later I had the same experience, but in reversed roles, when I

met someone that knew me by my reputation at Southwestern. I began backing away and denying everything, taking my queue and stage directions from Harold Parsley. But this time I had the advantage of actually seeing the Great One in Person.

I know he will be greatly missed. I had the pleasure of seeing and visiting with Harold several additional times over the years. Always fun.

John Brockman - February 25, 2022 at 11:48 AM

OT

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Prayers, love, and hugs.

Owen and Samye Turner

Owen and Samye Turner - February 25, 2022 at 09:12 AM

RO

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you all.



Robinson's - February 25, 2022 at 09:02 AM

MG

“ Such a sweet, kind man. I will always remember catching up weekly with Mrs. Parsley at the Texas Fajita window. And, Mr. Parsley milling around at one of the businesses. So friendly, never pretentious. My condolences to the family.

Monique Gebhart - February 24, 2022 at 11:10 PM

CS

“ In the Giddings summer of 1982, Mr. P. became my first boss (along with Mrs. Laird, of course). He always had a curious energy about him and never said a harsh word that I ever heard. I think I kind of put him into a tizzy my first week of work because I dropped the mop ringer on my toe and it bled a bit, but after that things kind of settled down. He was a pleasure to work for and to work with and I have many fond memories.

Carol Ann (Albrecht) Sherman

Carol Ann (Albrecht) Sherman - February 24, 2022 at 08:29 PM

RW

“ I worked for Mr. P for years. I never met a more kind and gentle spirit than him. He always had a smile on his face and never had a bad thing to say about anyone. Very humble and amazing man.

Roshell Wilburn - February 24, 2022 at 06:36 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Harold Lee Parsley Jr..



February 24, 2022 at 06:12 PM