



Harry George Namken

February 22, 1927 - April 13, 2016

"Those we love don't go away. They walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near. Still loved, still missed and ever dear."

Funeral services for Harry Namken, 89 of Giddings, are scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 16, 2016 at Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home in Giddings with Rev. Greg Gaskamp of Grace Lutheran Church in Giddings officiating. Burial will immediately follow in the Giddings City Cemetery. Visitation will be held on Friday, April 15, 2016 from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. and on Saturday, April 16, 2016 from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. at Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home in Giddings. The family will be present Friday evening from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Harry George Namken was born on February 22, 1927 in Giddings, Texas to Gustav and Ella (Bergt) Namken. He was baptized on March 20, 1927 and confirmed on April 6, 1941 at Martin Luther Lutheran Church in Giddings by Rev. William Mueller. His confirmation verse was 2 Corinthians 5:15, "He died of all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them and rose again." Harry was united in marriage to Janet Elaine Hold on October 2, 1949 at Martin Luther Lutheran Church in Giddings by Rev. S.T. Schroeder. Their marriage was blessed with two daughters, Donna Gale and Kathie.

Harry served his church and community in numerous capacities. He was an intermediate Sunday School teacher for two years and a choir member for almost thirty years. He served on several committees including the Boy Scout Troop, Street Paving Fund, Theological Student Fund and Church Council as Vice President for three years. He was active in the Brotherhood where he served as Treasurer and President.

Harry was employed for forty-four years as a dispatcher, storekeeper, purchasing agent and at the control center with LCRA/Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative. Harry had been a LCRA Credit Union Director for two terms and a LCRA Employee's Club Director for two terms.

Harry was a dedicated member of the Giddings Volunteer Fire Department for twenty-two years and served as President, Fire Chief and City Fire Marshall. He was Fire Chief in 1965 when a tractor trailer ran into downtown stores and exploded and burned.

Harry joined the Lion's Club in 1987. He was presented a Lifetime Membership to the Texas Lion's Camp and was proudly awarded a Life Membership by the Giddings Breakfast Lions Club in 2008. He was also a member of the Lee County Heritage Society and the Giddings Sons of Hermann Lodge #54.

Trotline fishing in the Colorado River and then Lake Somerville, working at the farm, tinkering with mechanical items including a large collection of rod and reels, playing dominoes, watching sports (especially the Aggies), dancing, listening to polka music and building birdhouses were among hobbies that Harry enjoyed. When his grandchildren were young, he delighted in teaching them to fish, ride a bike and garden.

Harry was adored by his family and will be greatly missed. He did not let his

handicap hold him back even though things were not always easy. He constantly had kind words of encouragement and said that you play the cards you are dealt.

Harry, beloved Opa, joined the heavenly realm, including his three brothers, Eddie, Roland and Erwin Namken, his sister, Louise Medack and his grandson, Chase Swonke the morning of Wednesday, April 13, 2016. He is now free of the bonds of this earth and looking in wonder at the things human eyes have never seen.

"Listen for angels hovering near, whispering words you are longing to hear.
Love is not over...
Life is not gone...
Now and forever, the spirit lives on."

Harry is survived by his wife of sixty-six years, Janet Namken of Giddings; two daughters and sons-in-law, Donna Gale & Thomas Swonke of Houston and Kathie & Gary Nitsche of La Grange; grandchildren, Shaun & Megan Swonke of Houston, Kimberly & Zach Burdine of Frisco and Kaci & David Paden of Georgetown; four great grandchildren, Addison Chase Swonke, Asher & Sloane Burdine and Connor Paden; sister-in-law, Gladys Namken of Giddings; brother-in-law, Rev. Winston Hold & his wife, Darlene of Gilmer as well as other friends and relatives.

"Life is eternal;
And love is immortal;
And death is only a horizon;
And a horizon is nothing save the limit of sight."

Serving as pallbearers will be Shaun Swonke, David Paden, Zach Burdine,

Terry Namken, David Namken and Allen Hold.

Memorials may be made to the Grace Lutheran Church Building fund in Giddings, Hospice Brazos Valley or the charity of one's choice.

The Fisherman's Prayer

God grant me that I may fish until my dying day.

And when it comes to my last cast,

I then most humbly pray,

When in the Lord's safe landing net

I'm peacefully asleep that in his mercy

I may be judged as good enough to keep.

Cemetery Details

Giddings City Cemetery (Section B)

900 West Austin Street
Giddings, TX 78942

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 15. 7:00 AM - 9:00 PM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - Giddings
3950 East Austin St.
Giddings, TX 78942
(979) 542-3113
phillipsluckey@yahoo.com
<https://www.phillipsandluckey.com/>

Family Present for Visitation

APR 15. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - Giddings
3950 East Austin St.
Giddings, TX 78942
(979) 542-3113
phillipsluckey@yahoo.com
<https://www.phillipsandluckey.com/>

Visitation

APR 16. 7:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - Giddings
3950 East Austin St.
Giddings, TX 78942
(979) 542-3113
phillipsluckey@yahoo.com
<https://www.phillipsandluckey.com/>

Funeral Service

APR 16. 10:00 AM (CT)

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3950 East Austin St.
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Tribute Wall



“ *Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Harry George Namken*



Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - April 14, 2016 at 06:09 PM

BB

“ *I always enjoyed talking with Harry at Nails Creek park. He really liked to fish!*

bruce burnett - April 27, 2016 at 06:42 PM

VK

“ *Vergie and Bill Kitchens purchased the 8" Angel holding Dove for the family of Harry George Namken.*



Vergie and Bill Kitchens - April 23, 2016 at 12:56 PM

VK

“ Our thoughts and prayers for Harry's family. Harry was the husband of one of my very best high school friends, Janet Hold. We visited with Janet and Harry when our children were very young and we treasure our memories of the weekend they spent with us in Houston. Janet and Harry kept our young boys while we attended the wedding of my sister, Joyce, in Giddings. Over the years we sort of saw less of each other but never forgot. Janet and Harry attended our fiftieth wedding anniversary celebration in 2001.

Janet, we love you and hope to see you real soon.

Vergie Fick Kitchens and husband Bill Kitchens0

Vergie Kitchens - April 23, 2016 at 11:44 AM

JP

“ My family lived near Harry's and once as a 4 year old I ran across the street in front of Harry's car. Bless his heart, my mother said he was so distraught, but it was all my fault. I had an overnight stay at the local hospital and discharged the next day. Years later, we would speak of it with humor. A very good man has passed from this world to his Heavenly Father.

John Pieratt - April 22, 2016 at 09:08 AM

CM

“ Cotton-suzanna Medack lit a candle in memory of Harry George Namken



cotton-suzanna medack - April 19, 2016 at 11:26 PM

MS

“ I have so many pleasant memories of fishing, playing skat, and going to dances with Harry and my dad, Paul. The world was a more enjoyable place with him in it. May the Lord hear our prayers for comfort during this time of sadness.
Marty Spitzenberger

Martin Spitzenberger - April 19, 2016 at 06:37 PM

MT

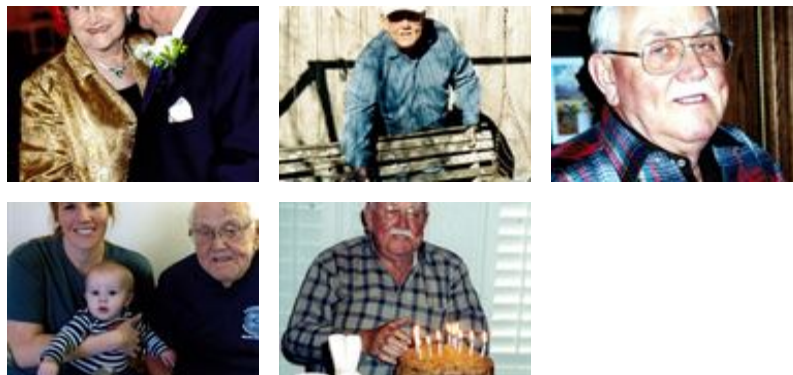
“ Millie, Shawn, Angela, Hailey, Ashlyn, Peanut and Tessa. purchased the Secret Garden Basket for the family of Harry George Namken.



Millie, Shawn, Angela, Hailey, Ashlyn, Peanut and Tessa. -
April 15, 2016 at 10:49 AM



“ 66 files added to the album LifeTributes



Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - April 14, 2016 at 05:52 PM

CP

Kathie- our thoughts and prayers are with you. We wish you kindnesses of family and friends. As we read this we are on the east coast and won't be able to be there with you. Dudley and Cyndi Piland

Cyndi Piland - April 14, 2016 at 09:49 PM

EK

“ *My sincere sympathy to Mrs. Janet, Donna Gale and family and Kathy and family. Hold on to Christ our dear Lord and Savior. May God hold you in His Almighty arms and keep you in His peace and comfort.*



Elaine Krause - April 14, 2016 at 01:06 PM

KU

“ *Karen Urban lit a candle in memory of Harry George Namken*



Karen Urban - April 14, 2016 at 10:32 AM

KU

Mr. Harry was a very special person and I have had the pleasure of knowing him very a long time. And he will also be a very special angel. To the family just lean on our Lord who takes care of us. Love to you all.

Karen Urban - April 14, 2016 at 10:34 AM

JN

“ Sincerest sympathy to Janet and the family.
Jo Ann Mgebroff Nelson



Jo Ann Nelson - April 14, 2016 at 09:25 AM

EC

“ I met Harry late in his life as I was writing an article for Bluebonnet co-op about the early years. He was so gracious and evocative relating his memories of growing up without electricity and then his accident. He was a loyal and respected Bluebonnet employee who will long be remembered. -- Ed Crowell

Ed Crowell - April 13, 2016 at 07:18 PM

AP

“ Avis W Proske lit a candle in memory of Harry
George Namken



Avis W Proske - April 13, 2016 at 05:45 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for
the family of Harry George Namken.



April 13, 2016 at 02:07 PM