



Henry Rudolph Von Gonten

December 8, 1931 - July 4, 2024

Henry was born Dec 8, 1931 in Haskell, Texas to Charles Dee and Emma Louise (Praesel) Von Gonten. The family moved to Thrall where Henry, his brother Charles, and sister Helen attended school. In the midst of moves around the area, Henry was confirmed at Sandoval, TX.

He started working on vehicles when he was young, and he taught himself the ins and outs of all kinds of engines. He bought his first truck at age 14, and quit school so that he could go to work hauling grain, picking and pulling cotton. He was proud to later get his GED, although friends and family always knew he was gifted with an engineering mind.

Henry joined the National Guard in 1950, and in the midst of his training drills and work he started dating Margaret Ann Adams in 1952. He married his lady April 29, 1954, and shipped off to Germany to work on tanks two weeks later. Margaret joined him there in October of the same year. They returned to the states in November 1955, where Henry worked for his uncle for many years driving a bulldozer and tractor and working as a mechanic.

Once back from Germany, Henry and Margaret were happy to add two children to their family, Kenneth Wayne Von Gonten born November 1, 1956 and Debra Ann (Von Gonten) Rolan October 11, 1959. They were later grateful to add Debra (Weiss) Von Gonten and Kevin Rolan to the family

through marriage. Henry loved being Pawpaw to his five grandkids and nine great-grandkids, and they brought the biggest smiles to his face.

Henry was always working on something, fixing tractors and vehicles. He was a jack of all trades and a master mechanic. Necessity is the father of invention, and Henry rigged and built the tools and equipment to fit his needs. His daughter called him the tractor whisperer and his granddaughter always said that Pawpaw could fix anything.

Until recent years, Henry was always up for a rousing game of dominoes or volleyball, playing the latter well into his 70s. Also, he could often be found in his garden or fishing with his family or friends.

Henry and Margaret reached the milestone of 70 years of marriage on April 29th of this year, and were able to celebrate this happy achievement surrounded by their family.

He was preceded in death by parents Charles Dee and Emma Louise Von Gonten, brother Charles Von Gonten, sister Helen (Von Gonten) Hammonds, son Kenneth Wayne Von Gonten, and grandson Cory Wayne Menges.

He is survived by wife, Margaret Ann, daughter Debby (and Kevin) Rolan, daughter-in-law Debbie Von Gonten, grandchildren Deanna (and Jake) Sallee, Matthew (and Kristen) Von Gonten, Wesley (and Tara) Rolan, Zachary (and Taylor) Rolan, Great-Grandchildren Henry Judah and Joyanna Brooke Sallee, Lucienne Ruth and Charles Kenneth Von Gonten, Bryce Harlen (and Alanna) Rolan, Wyatt Grace and Cory Jayne Rolan, Ruth Leigh and Samuel Henry Rolan.

Thank you to the Temple VA Hospital, Regency Manor and Rockdale Estates Nursing Homes, and Ascension Seton Williamson County for their care and

hospitality in the past month.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, July 7 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home in Rockdale.

Services will be held at Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home in Rockdale on Monday, July 8 at 10 am with Pastor Matt Higginbotham officiating. Burial will follow at Salty Cemetery in Thorndale.

Pallbearers will be, Wesley Rolan, Zachary Rolan, Matthew Von Gonten, Jake Sallee
Jason Gebhart and Stanley Stork.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Salty Cemetery Association (230 CR 447, Thorndale, TX 76577) or the American Cancer Society.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 7. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home
1041 US-79
Rockdale, TX 76567-4513
(512) 446-5454

Chapel Service

JUL 8. 10:00 AM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home
1041 US-79
Rockdale, TX 76567-4513
(512) 446-5454

Graveside Service

JUL 8. 11:00 AM (CT)

Salty Cemetery
4019 County Road 446
Rockdale, TX 76567

Tribute Wall

JT

“ Henry was a wonderful man.
--jeff turner

JEFF Turner - July 06, 2024 at 09:02 PM

BD

“ Henry was a beloved friend with a contagious smile. May God comfort his family and give them peace. Treasure your precious memories.
Love and prayers, Bob and Donna.



Bob and Donna - July 05, 2024 at 11:13 PM

TS

He was a superior tractor mechanic. We know we are better off from having known him.

Margaret, we are so sad for your loss.

Dr. Chester and Terry Smith

Terrie Smith - July 06, 2024 at 03:31 PM

KC

*Henry helped lots of people on tractors & other equipment, he was a treasure to lots of farmers, ranchers, & residents of Milam county.
RIP*

Kendall campbell - July 07, 2024 at 01:37 PM