



## **Stanley Paul Keathley**

Stanley Paul Keathley was born in Waxahachie on Oct. 30, 1932, and journeyed on to be with the Lord on Sept. 23, 2011. He was the third child born to Flem Storey and Constance Brockman Keathley.

Stanley graduated from Weslaco High School and attended Wharton County Junior College on a full football scholarship. He excelled in his studies, and was Little All-American quarterback his freshman year as well as Freshman Class Favorite. During his sophomore year at Wharton, he was All-State in football. He transferred to Sam Houston State University on a full football scholarship and graduated in 1956 with a degree in Agricultural Engineering.

Stanley attended Officer's Training at Fort Benning, Ga., then for eight years was a member of the Bay City Army Reserve Unit. He attained the rank of Captain, commanding that unit until his retirement from the Army.

Stanley taught school in Bay City for several years, teaching earth science and coaching football and track. During his time as a teacher, he attended summer classes at the Colorado School of Mines and Texas AM at College Station. He went to work for Celanese in 1963 working in Bay City for 13 years. He was an Elder of the First Presbyterian Church in Bay City. He was president of the Bay City Lions Club and a member of the Bay City School Board for six years, serving as president for three of those years. He transferred to the Pampa Celanese plant in 1976, then to the Bishop Celanese plant in 1982. Stanley retired as superintendent of purchasing in 1988.

After retirement, he and Ardeth moved to Overton in East Texas where they lived and worked on their piney woods acreage. He was an Elder in the First Presbyterian Church in Overton and president of the Rotary Club there. He was named a Paul Harris Fellow with Rotary International, and was Rotarian of the Year. He was an avid golfer and especially enjoyed the annual golf reunions with his Junior High baseball team.

Stanley loved his church, his family, and lived his life as he thought God wanted. He was a truly wonderful person; everyone who met Stanley loved him. Former students still called him "Coach" when they saw him, and he called everyone "Friend".

Stanley married the love of his life, Ardeth Brockman, on Feb. 14, 1953. They have three beloved daughters: Karen Abshier and her husband Kim of Wadsworth, Connie Milliff and her husband Larry of Wadsworth, and Kay Hodges of Allen.

Stanley is survived by his older brother, Flem Storey Keathley Jr. and his wife Evelyn of Conroe; his daughters; his six grandchildren, Amy Abshier-Reyes and her husband Ricky of Kansas City, Mo., Douglas Abshier and his wife Stacy of Schertz, Kathryn Milliff of Austin, Jessamyn DeVos and her husband Doug of Bay City, Alan Hodges of Allen, and Paul Hodges of Austin; two great-grandchildren, Esther Rose and Ian Reyes of Kansas City, Mo.; numerous nieces and nephews; and loyal dog, Joe. He is also survived by his brother-in-law, Larry Brockman and his wife Bea of Richardson, and by special friends, Marc and Karin Hill and their children, Amanda, Chandler, and Spencer of Bay City.

Stanley was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Donna Nell Dill; his brother, Dr. David Lee Keathley; niece, Linda Dill Day, and great-niece, Dana Marie Day.

Pallbearers are his grandsons, Douglas Abshier, Alan Hodges, Paul Hodges; grandson-in-law, Ricky Reyes; brother-in-law, Larry Brockman; and friends, Marc Hill, John "Hootie" Estlinbaum, and Larry Kiesling.

Honorary pallbearers are Kim Abshier, Larry Milliff, Doug K. DeVos, Charlie Tisdale, Ed Mitchell, Jim Rogers, Claude Jungman, Edgar Douglas, Wayne Harrison, George Durett, Bill Roe, Richard Knapik, and Glenn Douglas.

Special thanks to Houston Hospice, especially Jackie Hooper, Bertha Jefferson, Pat Matthes, the Rev. Don Storey, and the staff of the Legacy in Bay City.