



## Virgil James Massaro

April 19, 1924 - January 26, 2015

Virgil James Massaro died January 26, 2015 in Houston, Texas. He was born April 19, 1924 in McAlester, Oklahoma to Steve and Jennie Massaro. He was a veteran of World War II serving in the administrative offices of Camp Maxey, Paris, Texas. He attended the University of Oklahoma graduating with a degree in accounting and enjoyed a thirty-four year career with Conoco in both the Personnel Department and later in the Treasury Department, retiring as Assistant Treasurer. He then embarked on a second career of eight years with Jardine Insurance Brokers.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother Ed Massaro and a sister, Doris Keller. He is survived by his wife Lois and four children, James Massaro and wife Susie of Hawaii, Cecile Bott and husband Julian of Texas, Peter Massaro and wife Jan of Oregon and Larry Massaro and wife Kamie of Texas. He is also survived by his brother Joe Massaro and his wife Nancy, plus nine grandchildren, Steve Massaro, KC Massaro, Danny Massaro, Michelle Massaro, Emily Massaro, Ian Bott, James Bott, Erica Massaro, and Lily Massaro; and five great-grandchildren, Julia, Tony, Sofia, Adalynn, and Hadley.

The family would like to thank all of Virgil's friends, doctors and caregivers who supported him with special care the last several months.

The family will receive friends Tuesday, January 27 from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm with a vigil and rosary at 7:00 pm at Dettling Funeral Home, 14094 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77079. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated Wednesday morning, January 28 at 10:30 am at St. John Vianney Catholic Church, 625 Nottingham Oaks Trail, Houston, TX 77079. Interment will follow on Thursday, January 29 at 1:00 pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Cemetery, 330 Berry Lane, Georgetown, TX 78626. Visit [www.DettlingFuneral.com](http://www.DettlingFuneral.com) to leave online tributes.

Eulogy by Ian Bott, recited the day of his grandfather Virgil Massaro's funeral Mass-

Dearest Grandfather,

I don't have the words today to adequately encapsulate the impact you have had on me and on those around you. You are uniquely resourceful, unconditionally loving, exceptionally generous, as well as qualities that go far beyond words.

You have always had an amazing proclivity for stories. As long as I've known you, you've always shared stories with me. True stories, made-up stories, bedtime stories, scary stories, funny stories... just a total abundance of stories. Sometimes the same story more than once.

Today I am fondly reminded of one of these stories that demonstrates your creativity and shrewdness. The setting is one day at your office (at Conoco), when the company brought in a group of consultants to lead in a teambuilding exercise. The facilitators placed you in a small group and gave you a bunch of paper, scissors, glue and other materials. Each team was instructed to take the better part of an hour to come up with the most effective way of flying an object across the room.

When time expired teams got up one by one, with complex paper airplane contraptions traveling various distances but never reaching the length of the large room. Your team was up very last. You stepped up as a representative, holding only a single sheet of paper in hand. To widespread shock, you crumbled the seemingly paltry sheet of paper into a ball. Hurling the paper, it hit the wall at the opposite end of the room at full force. Your solution was daring and unconventional, and also by far the best solution to the game. "You've seen this before, haven't you?" asked the facilitator, dumbfounded. But of course you hadn't seen it before, you merely had found the extraordinary within the ordinary.

You once gave me the advice to always follow what seems authentic to yourself, to follow your inner judgment regardless of what others were doing, even when it means "flying" in the face of others' expectations (yes, pun intended). And that is exactly the character you modeled for us every day, acting boldly and sincerely without compromising on your own wisdom and values. And you did so with a sense of grace, compassion and playfulness that so many of us in this room have had the fortune to experience

Today it is with utmost sadness that we say goodbye to your physical presence; I will miss your unwavering support for me, for our family and for those closest to you. And yet today I also have gratitude in knowing that your influence and inspiration has not left us. There is an interminable part of you that lives on in your children, your grand-children and great-grandchildren as well as the lives of all those you touched. For there is perhaps nothing as perennial as the love and joy that you shared with us and that lives on in each of our hearts.

Love you always Grandpa.

# Cemetery

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## Our Lady Of The Rosary Cemetery

330 Berry Lane

Georgetown, TX, 78626

# Events

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**JAN 27 Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM  
Dettling Funeral Home  
14094 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX, US, 77079

**JAN 27 Vigil/Rosary** 07:00PM  
Dettling Funeral Home  
14094 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX, US, 77079

**JAN 28 Funeral Mass** 10:30AM  
St. John Vianney Catholic Church  
625 Nottingham Oaks Trail, Houston, TX, US,  
77079

**JAN 29 Graveside Service** 01:00PM  
Our Lady Of The Rosary Cemetery  
330 Berry Lane, Georgetown, TX, US, 78626

# Comments

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“ So sorry for your loss. My dad, Leonard Dominic, always spoke fondly of their friendship and fun memories together through the years. I can only imagine them both in Heaven at peace and having a good time together. May God bless your family with peace and comfort at this time.

**Shirley Jones** - January 29, 2015 at 09:00 AM

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“ I know Virgil through the Lanie family connection, his wife and my Mother being Lanie first cousins. He was a fun guy to be in the company of, and he especially enjoyed showing of his card tricks, which i found to be quite entertaining. He had many stories to tell, having lived a full life.  
Thomas Dale Hebert

**Thomas D. Hebert** - January 28, 2015 at 06:47 AM

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“ Thomas Dale Hebert purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Virgil James Massaro.



**Thomas Dale Hebert** - January 28, 2015 at 05:47 AM

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“ Virgil was quite instrumental in my hiring at Consol and was supportive of my career throughout our time together at Consol and then Conoco. I enjoyed his company during my career and especially our time together lunching while he was with Jardine I heard so many great stories about the earlier days in Treasury as well as the politics surrounding that time period . I don't think I ever met a better or more entertaining story teller or, for that matter, a nicer all around guy.

I extend my heart felt sympathy to his family.

Roy Hoffman

**RoyHoffman** - January 27, 2015 at 03:48 PM



“ Dear Roy,

How very lovely to hear from you! We appreciate your kind sentiments and will miss Dad's great stories ourselves. I will ask Mr. Dettling to please post my son's eulogy on this very topic!

Warm Wishes,  
Cecile

**Cecile** - February 04, 2015 at 02:26 PM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Virgil James Massaro.



January 27, 2015 at 01:44 PM

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“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Virgil James Massaro.



January 27, 2015 at 12:51 PM

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“ Jay Etheredge purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Virgil James Massaro.



**Jay Etheredge** - January 27, 2015 at 12:05 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Virgil James Massaro.



January 27, 2015 at 11:58 AM

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“ Janice and Lee Boothby purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Virgil James Massaro.



**Janice and Lee Boothby** - January 27, 2015 at 10:53 AM

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“ Newfield Exploration Company purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Virgil James Massaro.



**Newfield Exploration Company** - January 27, 2015 at 10:14 AM