



Herschel T. Vinyard Sr.

July 30, 1938 - November 10, 2020

Herschel T. Vinyard Sr, age 81, died peacefully in his home, surrounded by his family, on Tuesday evening, November 10th, 2020. He was born to Herschel and Mamie Rettig Vinyard in Olla, Louisiana. Herschel graduated from LaSalle High School in 1957 and earned a degree in Chemical Engineering from Louisiana Tech University in 1962. While at Louisiana Tech, Herschel was a four-year letterman in football, team captain, and was selected for three years as an All-Conference player. In 2001, he was named to the Louisiana Tech All-Century Football team.

Upon graduation, Herschel joined Texas Eastman Company in Longview, TX, and later, ExxonMobil Chemical in Baytown and Houston, retiring in 2000. Herschel enjoyed his hobbies of studying the Bible, vegetable gardening, cooking, woodworking, hunting and fishing, and was most admired for his devotion to his family and faith in God.

Herschel is survived by his wife of 57 years, Dorothy (Dot), three sons Herschel Jr (Sharon) of Jacksonville, FL., David (Julie), and Robert (Fred), both of Houston, his four grandchildren, Sarah Reid (Geoffrey), Thomas and fiancée Staci, Hannah (Ethan), Margaret, and great-grandchild, Geoff.

Other survivors include his twin sister Helen Gilliam of Lake Charles, LA, and sister Marilyn Salsbury of Baton Rouge, brother and sister-in-law Sarah and Bill Brown of San Francisco, and many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his sister Charmaine Denham of Baton Rouge, and brothers in-law Dallas Salsbury and Giles Gilliam.

A Memorial Mass will be scheduled at a later date. Donations may be made in Herschel's memory to St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, 10688 Shadow Wood Drive, Houston, TX, 77043, or Louisiana Tech University Foundation College of Engineering and Science P.O. Box 3183 Ruston, LA 71272. Visit www.DettlingFuneral.com to leave words of condolence for the family.

Tribute Wall



“ *Herschel T. Vinyard Sr.*

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *Herschel T. Vinyard Sr.*

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *Herschel T. Vinyard Sr.*

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *Herschel T. Vinyard Sr.*

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM



“ *We were so sorry to hear of Herschel's passing. Herschel was such a remarkable and amazing man, a great and loving family man with a heart of gold and a smile like sunshine. For this world to without him will be hard for he was one-in-a-million but Herschel is happy knowing that his 3 wonderful sons will carry on all he taught them. Herschel will forever be in our hearts and minds. We hope your lovely and unforgettable memories of Herschel will ease the pain and sorrow of his passing. We are blessed and grateful to have known him...he will be very much missed. Prayers and thoughts from the Place family.*

Gigi and Geoff Place - December 28, 2020 at 12:55 PM

JL

“*Dot and family.... we are sad on the news but lucky to have had a wonderful relationship with Herschel starting during the early construction and start up of the Baytown Olefins Plant. He was a key member of the leadership team that molded the culture at BOP to be a model work place and a state of art manufacturing complex. I remember lots of interactions with him, always positive and at times humorous. He was always a can-do person with a zest for life. I never saw him mad or upset, always had a common sense approach. And always a strong family person who would take pride in sharing family activities.*

Dot.....you both were very supporting during our daughter's battle with children cancer and you were there for us on the most critical moments. We always remember it with love and appreciation.

*God bless all of you.
José Leon*

jose leon - November 17, 2020 at 07:52 PM

CT

“*As a fellow classmate and teammate of Hershel's at Louisiana Tech and as a fellow lineman, I knew Hershel on many levels. He was everything that our head football coach, Joe Aillet, desired in an athlete; academic and athletic ability to play the game of football. He was a valued friend and will remain in my mind as the best example of what a person should strive for and accomplish in life. Sincere regards, Billy Jack Talton, #68*

Carolyn Talton - November 17, 2020 at 08:53 AM

TH

“ To Dot and the Vineyard Family, please accept our condolences. I met Herschel as we worked together at Exxon Baytown Olefins Plant. Met Dot as a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Baytown. Last saw Herschel and Dot at my retirement party in January 2003.
Trevor and Shirley Hawkins

Trevor A Hawkins - November 16, 2020 at 05:06 PM

SR

“ To Dot and the rest of Herschel's family - I so enjoyed working with Herschel at the Baytown Olefins Plant. We worked together on several teams, and Herschel was always a thoughtful and caring team member, as well as a natural mentor. My prayers are with your family. Susan Reeves

Susan Reeves - November 15, 2020 at 09:56 AM

DG

Dot and Family,
Please accept our deep condolences on Herschel's passing, He was a well-respected colleague during our time together at the BOP, and I know he was respected by both management and the process technicians. We worked together to make BOP a special place. He will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
Doug and Geni Garrison

doug & geni garrison - November 15, 2020 at 08:34 PM

DW

“ I remember Herschel from Louisiana Tech when I was a student in chemical engineering. Herschel had a few years on me and I don't remember meeting him but I knew of his outstanding reputation. I was awed by anyone who could master a very difficult chemical engineering curriculum and college football.

Dave Watson - November 15, 2020 at 08:49 AM

DF

“Herschel will be lovingly remembered by us long-time members of St. John's Catholic Church in Baytown. He was always there to provide assistance and support in our parish undertakings. I spent many years as choir director, cantor and Adult Education Coordinator at St. John's and I always enjoyed Herschel's company and support. Maybe his greatest contribution for me was Herschel, Jr. and his guitar at Mass on Sundays. Even as a young teen Herschel, Jr. often was the difference between having musical accompaniment for our services or me singing a cappella, (which nobody wanted).
Rest in peace, Herschel.

Deacon Dan Foley

Deacon Dan Foley - November 13, 2020 at 05:26 PM

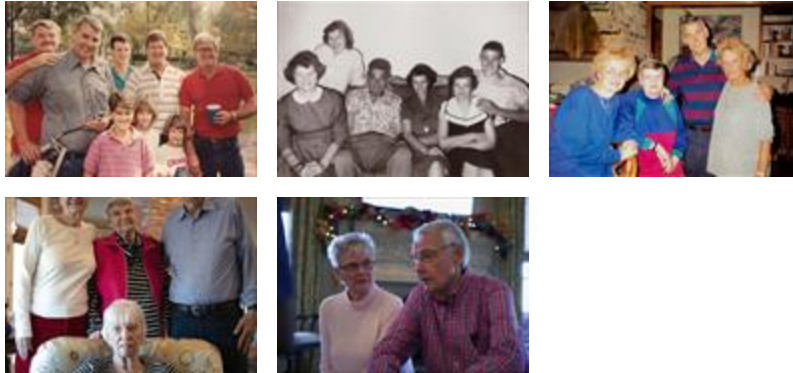
DS

Herschel and Dot were pillars of the St. John's community. We were sad when they moved to Houston, but felt privileged to see their family grow and thrive through their annual Christmas photo. God Bless you, Dot as you face life without him. I know he will be at your side every day in spirit.

Dave and Rita Starz - November 17, 2020 at 04:02 PM

TU

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album




Tucker - November 12, 2020 at 08:58 PM

TU

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Tucker - November 12, 2020 at 08:57 PM


Michelle
Gilliam

“ *Uncle Herschel, We love you and will miss you. Thank you for being an inspiration to Tucker, Harrison and me. We were lucky you have been a part of our lives, and we will always cherish you and hold you in our hearts. Love, Tucker, Michelle and Harrison Gilliam*

Michelle Gilliam - November 12, 2020 at 03:33 PM