



## Harold Floyd Griffiths

December 22, 1926 - February 13, 2021

Harold Floyd Griffiths died peacefully at home, surrounded by family, on Saturday, February 13th at 3:36 PM in Plymouth, Minnesota. Where to begin. Of course, yes, he was a father, grandfather, husband, and brother, loved dearly, and looked up to by countless many. Harold was also a clever and savvy businessman, philanthropist, and honored member of the Merchant Marines.

In his blessed 94 years, Harold lived many lives. Born December 22nd, 1926 in Mankato, Minnesota to Erma and John Roy Griffiths, Harold began his tenure with the Merchant Marines at the young age of 17, hauling oil around the world, and eventually transporting prisoners of war between Germany and the United States during World War II. His family had the pleasure of being regaled by countless stories of driving 600 foot tankers and adventures from his travels around the world.

One story they recount, "When Grandpa was Master of the Panamanian flag tanker, MS J.A. Mowinckel, he told how they were torpedoed by a German U-boat on one trip. Grandpa was able to steer the tanker to safety from torpedoes, but when pulling in to what they thought was a safe inlet, the ship hit a U.S. mine. Out of fear of being attacked again, Grandpa ordered the ship to be abandoned. The ship was later towed to safety and repaired to be used in service again."

After the Merchant Marines, Harold was drafted into service with the U.S. Army in 1950. After being honorably discharged as PFC 1st Class in 1952, he returned home to Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

Harold's next adventure, and now a great part of his legacy, was driving the success of Wrico Stamping Co. Becoming the principal owner in 1966, Harold took the 2,000 square foot building, and 2 employees, and helped Wrico/K-Tek grow to 8 locations, employing over 600 people, many of which have stayed with Wrico for decades. Employees would often see Harold walking around the press floor to chat and joke around with them.

Beyond the empire he helped create through Wrico/K-Tek, Harold was a philanthropist and held a strong belief in giving back. Although never formally educated beyond high school, Harold held a great respect for the young mind, and started two foundations to help others reach their college goals. Harold is known in the Eden Prairie and Motley communities for providing scholarships to students in order for them to go to college.

Harold Griffiths, known by his family as being a jokester and storyteller, is preceded in death by first wife Betty Holasek Griffiths, who died from cancer in 1989, his 3-year-old brother Roger; four sisters: Dorothy, Iva, Norma, and Belva; and step-son Keith Nord.

Harold is survived by second wife Virginia Nord Griffiths (married in 1991), two brothers: Orvil and Harlyn, two children from Betty: Kenneth Griffiths (Kathy) and Keith Griffiths (Fiancé Ann Bouchard); six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren: Nathan Griffiths, Briana Anders (Husband Patrick, and children Emery, Cora, and Desmond), Kyle Griffiths, Cecelia Pallotto (Husband Luke and children Remington and Adela), Luke Otto-Griffiths, and Kylie Griffiths.

Blessed to find love a second time, and humbled to reciprocate the love from the family Virginia shared with her first husband Lynn Nord (died from cancer in 1987), Harold is also survived by two step-daughters: Cheryl Hook (Jan), Kimberly Nord-Nash (Gregory); daughter-in-law Jennifer Nord (Keith Nord); eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren: Joshua Hook (Wife Jennifer and daughter Autumn), Lauren Maben (Husband Andrew), Gretchen Nash, Kathryn Dougherty (Husband Michael and children Alexander and Kaiden), Alexandra Yonga (Husband Joseph and son Remy), Emerson Sankey, Easton Sankey, and Avery Nord.

Due to COVID-19, the family will hold a private funeral on March 9th. In lieu of flowers, please donate to a cancer or Alzheimer's foundation of your choice.

Loved by us all, we look forward to continuing his stories and the good works he has begun, and take solace in knowing he has gone on to a peaceful place.

# Tribute Wall

RL

“ Harold was my God father and I remember from 2005 to 2008 I was executive chef at sunsets wayzata harlold would come in for lunch quit often always asking if he could talk to his nephew the chef .  
Robbie lemke

Rob lemke - March 18, 2021 at 07:25 AM

RO

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



ron - March 09, 2021 at 09:18 AM

JH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jody Harper - March 08, 2021 at 03:56 PM



“ Reflections of Glory Wreath was purchased for the family of Harold Floyd Griffiths.



March 04, 2021 at 01:44 PM

KE

“ *Ktek Carolina management and employees purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Harold Floyd Griffiths.*



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**Ktek Carolina management and employees** - March 04, 2021  
at 10:36 AM

RO

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Ron** - March 03, 2021 at 11:32 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Random Fun & Good Times!*



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**Cecelia Pallotto** - March 02, 2021 at 04:59 PM



“ 3 files added to the album *Grandpa's Birthday 2019*



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**Cecelia Pallotto** - March 02, 2021 at 04:56 PM