

David Paul Henke, (age79), departed this life on October 13, 2026.

David was born November 21, 1946, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, son of Wilber Paul Henke and Geneva (Campbell) Henke. He had one brother, Ron, of Oklahoma City who preceded him in death.

After graduating from Bishop McGuiness High School, David graduated from the University of Oklahoma where he was a University Scholar. After graduating from Oklahoma University and with much help from the bridge community of Oklahoma City, David opened a bridge studio with his brother, Ron. David was the youngest Life Master in the Sooner Unit.

David met his future wife, Lorrie Welch Thompson at the bridge club. They married in 1977 and he had a ready made family with sons James (Bart) and Craig. It became clear that David needed an additional vocation and he returned to law school in 1977. He graduated in 1980 from Oklahoma City University Law School and was 4th in his class.

David started his career with the state of Oklahoma and then moved to Kerr McGee in 1980 as a natural gas analyst. He was promoted to head of the Natural Gas Group and then held various positions culminating in International Land Man.

Lorrie and David completed their family over the next few years with the adoption of Joshua John, and Anne Marie. Anne Marie passed away on Christmas eve at the age of 10 and her last words were, "Tomorrow is Jesus' birthday".

David took a 25 year break from bridge to raise his growing family. The family moved to the Spring area in 1999 when Kerr McGee moved its oil and gas headquarters to Houston.

In 2009, after several bouts with cancer, Lorrie passed away. After Lorrie's passing, David kibitzed a national tournament watching his friend from Oklahoma, Ed Groner. Ed introduced David to the Houston bridge community where he met Joyce Ryan.

David and Joyce traveled the country and the world and enjoyed playing bridge together for 15 years. During that time, David achieved the rank of Platinum Life Master. Not only was David a top competitive bridge player, he was also known for his kindness and courtesy at the table. David was a founding member of the Bridge Academy of West Houston.

A memorial service will be held at St Ignatius of Loyola, 7810 Cypresswood Dr, Spring, TX 77379 at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Bridge Academy of West Houston at 9800 Richmond, Houston Tx., Bridge Club of Houston at 4688 Louetta Rd. Spring Tx., or the charity of your choice.