



## Howard Dean Bechthold

*January 6, 1930 - May 5, 2019*

Howard Dean Bechthold of McKinney, Texas passed away on May 5, 2019 at the age of 89. He was born on January 6, 1930 to Fred and Elsie (Janzen) Bechthold in Hillsboro, Kansas. Howard was a 1947 graduate of Alice High school. He studied agriculture education at Texas A&I University in Kingsville, Texas, before serving his country proudly in the United States Air Force for four years. During this time, Howard served as a Drill Sergeant training new recruits at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas and Newcastle Air Force Base in Delaware. On October 6, 1951, he married his only sweetheart, Doris Light, in Alice, Texas. Howard and Doris were married 57 years before she passed away in 2008. He worked at Otis Engineering Corporation for 37 years.

Howard is survived by his daughters, Deborah Hurst and husband, Harold of Gordonville, Texas, Michele Price and husband, Tim of Aberdeen, South Dakota, and Gaye Lynn Glay and husband, Randy of McKinney, Texas; grandchildren, Amy Hernandez and husband, Valentin of McKinney, Texas, Jessica Phinney and husband, Jack of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Libby Price of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Trevor Glay of McKinney, Texas; great grandchildren, Natalia Hernandez, Alex Hernandez, Alyssa Hernandez, Otis Phinney, and Ellis Phinney; sisters, Verna Boyd, Jenny Ebensberger and husband, Phil of Midland, Texas, Kathryn Fleming of Stillwater, Oklahoma, Helen Escobar and husband, Robert of Gatesville, Texas, Mabel Gilmore of Hillsboro, Texas, and Carol Bechthold of Temple, Texas; and numerous other loving family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Doris; parents, Fred and Elsie Bechthold; brothers, Merle Bechthold, Dale Bechthold, Gilbert Bechthold, and Gerald Bechthold; and sister, Agnes DeBusk.

A funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, May 9, 2019 at Turrentine-Jackson-Morrow Funeral Home Chapel, 2525 Central Expressway North, Allen, Texas. Interment will follow at Ridgeview Memorial Park in Allen, Texas. The family will receive friends during a reception on Thursday afternoon from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorial donations can be made to the [American Cancer Society](#).

# Memorials

*Howard was my oldest brother that I admired very much. Howard and Doris taught me a lot, one of them being how to fold fitted sheets. All my love.*

**KATHY FLEMING , MAY 25, 2019**

*I first met Howard four years ago at Cardio Rehad at The Medical City of Plano. Although he fought difficult cancers for years he came to exercise whenever he could, always remained upbeat, smiling and outgoing. He was an inspiration to all of us and we will miss him.*

**STEVE COCHRAN, MAY 9, 2019**

*My husband, Ed (Corkey) McCloskey, always spoke warmly about Howard. My condolences to the family. Corkey passed away in 2012, but I know he sends deepest sympathy to Howard's family. Am sure they're on the other side shaking hands and smiling.*

**JACQUELYN M.MCCLOSKEY, MAY 8, 2019**

*Dear Howard, I am so sorry but I know you aren't suffering anymore & are in a wonderful place & with Doris again. You have always been such a nice, caring, giving man & have been helpful to so many. You will be missed by family & friends alike. Helen was sweet enough to call me last night & for that I am grateful. She has so much love & respect for you. You come from a wonderful family. I am so glad we all met while living in Alice. Rest in peace my friend. With much respect & love, Carolyn*

**CAROLYN WATERS REED, MAY 8, 2019**

*Howard's warm smile and kind heart brought such goodness to everyone who saw him daily at Otis Engineering. I am blessed to have known him during my time working there.*

**DEBBIE SCHULZ-PETERS, MAY 8, 2019**

*One of the finest people we have ever know. A true gentleman that would do anything he could to help you. Howard is already missed.*

**ROBERT & SHIRLEY WOMACK, MAY 8, 2019**

*I have been friends with Howard's daughter, GayeLynn, for many years. I did not know her father well, but whenever I saw him, he was so warm and friendly-just like GayeLynn. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.*

**MARY PAT BRAGERS, MAY 8, 2019**

*My deepest sympathy to the family. My many years working with Howard at Otis and years seeing him afterwards was always such a pleasure. My wife, Juanita, and I would see Howard at Lubys cafeteria in Plano and we were always greeted with his wonderful smile. Such a gracious man, he will be missed by many but is now with Doris forever. Thank you Howard for all of us knowing you. Rest in peace.*

**JACK KIRBY, MAY 8, 2019**

*I will never forget Howard's smile, and his amazing ability to remember the names of people he had met and often only briefly worked with, along with fascinating project details. He was a true gentleman and very honest in his interactions with all of us. One recent, memorable occasion with Howard was in 2015 at a reception after Charlie Cobb's funeral service. Sitting at a table together, Jerry Davis related interesting stories and delivered good-natured prodding to Howard regarding experiences and challenges shared in field sales for Otis many years ago, and Howard just smiled, then would shake his head and say "naaaww!" Those stories and Howard's reactions brought Phil Sizer and me almost to tears. Howard set a great example for all of us, and he had a memorable career...he will be sorely missed by the Otis family. I know the many treasured memories of Howard will help to sustain his family and friends at this difficult time.*

**RUSTY BAYH, MAY 8, 2019**

*I met Howard at Medical City Plano Heart Re-hab in 2016. He was such a sweet and gracious man with a big heart and friendly smile. He made the world a better place and definitely will be greatly missed. My deepest condolences to the family. God bless you all and keep you in his graces.*

**JUANITA ST.CLAIR, MAY 7, 2019**

*I always could depend on Howard for friendship and to do his best working with*

*all of us. He was a gentleman. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.*

*Calvin*

**CALVIN CLARK, MAY 7, 2019**

*One of the finest persons with extraordinary character that I ever worked with. Quick to help others, quick to laugh, always a "glass half full" man. He did keep a messy office though and I thought he was a magician when he could pull out anything he wanted. I admired him for many reasons. My condolences to his loved ones.*

**PAUL TERRY, MAY 7, 2019**

*I first met Howard at Cardiac Rehab where he worked out for many years. He made a point to know everyone's name and never failed to ask about their health or what was happening in their lives. And all with a smile that would light up the room. This gregarious gentle man will be missed by many.*

**BILL BOCK, MAY 7, 2019**

*If you looked up the definition of a "good man" in the dictionary, I truly believe Uncle Howard's picture would be there. He was a true pillar of the family. I will miss his strength, faith, courage, humor, compassion, his love, and his warm, encompassing hugs.*

**COLLEEN AND DAN BRANSON, MAY 7, 2019**

*My deepest sympathy to the family. Howard taught me many things during our careers at Otis Engineering. He was a mentor and a good friend as we worked on many projects together. God bless his soul and watch over all who loved him.*

**ARTIE BURKE, MAY 7, 2019**

*Howard Bechthold was a mentor to me. When I succeeded Howard as Product Manager at Otis, I relied on him for guidance in performing my duties. He also taught me much about being a gentleman. Thank you Howard for your instruction and your inspiration. You will be missed.*

**KEITH ROMAINE, MAY 7, 2019**

*Always the gentleman and good friend. He was one of the great Otis pioneers leading the way for others to follow. He will be missed by his Otis family. My*

*sympathy and condolences to the family.*

**JEWELL SMITH, MAY 7, 2019**

*I saw that Howard Bechthold smile many times in my 22 years with Otis Pressure Control then Otis Engineering. That was what you saw when he walked into the office. Howard was as fine a fella you would ever meet. He will be missed by many people that he helped improve their knowledge of Otis Products. God Bless the family in their mourning allowing them to understand that Howard has gone to a better place.*

**DAVID L GROVES, MAY 7, 2019**

*Uncle Howard was an inspiration to me and my family, a wonderful man, and much loved. He will be missed.*

**SCOTT FLEMING, MAY 7, 2019**

*This is my oldest cousin. jim*

**JAY CHRISTENSEN, MAY 6, 2019**

*our thoughts and prayers are with y jim and judy christensen, May 6, 2019 So sorry to hear about my cousin Howard passing away, especially since it was the day of the Martens reunion at the Marion County Lake. I'm so glad he made the trip to KS every year. Lots of memories of eating "our peoples" German food at the Breadbasket and visiting afterwards! Then being packed in with all the Martens relatives AND good food the next day. My first memory is when my sister and I stayed at his house while the rest of the family went down to Mexico for the day. Sure thankful I called him last month and told him I loved him. My mom, his aunt Lucy Janzen, also sends her condolences.*

**MARILYN JANZEN COOK, MAY 6, 2019**

*I met Howard in Welcome Class at Custer Road United Methodist Church. We clicked because we both worked in oil and gas. Howard's stories of the oil business were entertaining, his advice on life spot on and I came to look upon him as a 2nd father. He always spoke of missing Doris, so now he is with her in heaven. Howard lived a life he could be proud of.*

**EWELL SCHIRMER, MAY 6, 2019**

*I am sad to hear of this news. I know how difficult these days are. I know that*

*you did everything you could to honor your father. May he rest in peace.*

**MELINDA STEPHENSON, MAY 6, 2019**

*Howard was a delight to our Sunday School class at Custer Road United Methodist Church. I love the fact that he always wore a suit and tie to church! He was our stately gentleman, who always spoke with wisdom and love. He felt the cancer was a burden and a challenge, but he always kept a positive attitude and had a peace about it all. He trusted his Lord and Savior and looked forward to seeing Doris and heaven. He also knew his life had purpose, that God would use him until He took Howard home. He knew that his witness was always important, that what other people saw was Christ in him. Howard always found ways to serve. He must have had good parenting! He must have been a wonderful father. We knew we had to let Howard go, but we will miss him terribly. He was an inspiration to us all. His was a life well-lived.*

**BLAKE AND PATTY MOORE, MAY 5, 2019**

*Our wonderful Welcome Class Sunday School friend and fellow at Whataburger Buddy, Howard Bechthold, went to be with his precious Doris today. For years I went to Sunday School early at 8:30 to have 30 minutes of Howard to myself each week before class started at 9:00. We talked about silly things, serious things and everything in between. He dressed like a million bucks every Sunday and his attire always included a big smile and an easy laugh. Loved him even more when I figured out he went to Whataburger every morning with his great coffee group....but I had never seen him because I went early and his gang went at 9:00. Needless to say some mornings I would alter my schedule to be sure and see him and the gang!! Can only imagine how big God's smile was as He rejoiced at Howard's homecoming with open arms. There could not have been a better good and faithful servant and husband, Dad, grandfather, friend....we will miss you.*



**DEBBIE MRAZEK , MAY 5, 2019**

*We will miss you. I am glad you are free and with loved ones.*

**LISA, MAY 5, 2019**

*I am a better person because I knew Howard. A gentle and caring soul. He and I shared Alice, Robstown, and Driscoll, Tx stories. He knew some of my relatives from his days in South Texas. He loved my deer sausages every year. We sat by each other in our Sunday school class. He was a warrior and a Christian man. RIP Howard. We will miss you.*

**TOMMY MRAZEK, MAY 5, 2019**

*Howard was a wonderful brother whom I will miss very much.*

**CAROL BECHTHOLD, MAY 5, 2019**

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