

Lewis Gerald Storey Sr. (Jerry)

November 30, 1925 – October 16, 2024

Lewis Gerald Storey Sr. (Jerry) passed away peacefully on October 16, 2024. He was 98 years old. Jerry was born in Midland, Texas, on November 30, 1925. His father's name was J.R. Storey, and his mother's name was Lula B. (Banerman). Jerry had two sisters, Mary Evelyne Woolston (deceased) and Doris Laird.



Jerry grew up on the family farm. The farm was owned and operated by the Storey brothers, J. R., his father, and his Uncle Lewis. There were three houses on the home lot, one for his family, one for Uncle Lewis's family, and one for his grandparents. According to Jerry, they all survived the "Dirty Thirties" by "sharing what they had with whoever needed it". Jerry attended the one room elementary school at La Palma, a couple of miles east of their farm. He made lifelong friends while living at 11 Mile Corner, like Tommy Caywood (cousin), Jack Foster, Ed Hooper, and Jay Wilson, friends whose memories he enjoyed and cherished. Tommy and Jerry were especially close. Their laughter still echoes in our respective recollections.

In 1950 Jerry and family moved closer to town where they lived on a farm leased by the Grasty family, land now occupied by homes, Mesquite School and Walmart. Jerry attended Casa Grande High School (City Hall) where he met his absolute soulmate, Ida Mae Sligh. He immediately told his friends he would one day marry that girl, and as he predicted, Jerry and Ida were married at the old rock Presbyterian church (Historical Museum) on July 28, 1945. Jerry was on a five-day pass from the Navy where he was serving in the South Pacific. He spent most of WWII on Guadalcanal, an unforgettable experience for an 18-year-old kid from rural Arizona. Jerry and Ida's incredible devotion to each other lasted 79 years.

Jerry and Ida had five children: Jerrilyne Chapman (Danny), Lewis Storey Jr. (Jane), Cline Storey (Cindy), Marni Kuyl (Chris), and Richard Storey (Tammy). They have 12 grandchildren and "who knows" how many great-grandchildren, who they have loved and supported always. The family gatherings have been a constant testament to the love and joy the family has shared and cherished through the years.

Jerry was an unassuming, kind man who was generous to a fault. He treated everyone with respect and a warm-hearted humor. Jerry's greatest accomplishment was the loving example he set for all of us. Some of his best friends were the men who worked for him, like Jim and Eddy at Storey's Exxon, and the Tijerina family, especially Manuel, who worked years on our farm while sending his four kids to college. Jerry loved hunting and fishing as well as the many family vacations where the family explored the Southwestern United States in a little camper trailer and tent. He also enjoyed summer months on Mission Beach. Our cousin, Alfred Woolston (Noonie), typically joined us on holidays and vacations, truly part of our crazy family. Jerry loved cotton farming, and dreamed of that high-yield crop until the day he died. He's still out there on that proverbial dirt road, making sure the tractors are running, the water is set, the crops are growing, and the blackbirds are singing. He will be missed.

A celebration of life will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 26, at First Presbyterian Church of Casa Grande in the Family Life Center. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Seeds of Hope of Casa Grande.