

## **Hestel Walker | 1926-2015**

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Tags: Fort Worth

Hestel Walker, 88, died Friday, Feb. 20, 2015, at his home in the Fort Worth area.

Service is 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at Lucas Funeral Home in Hurst.

Hestel Walker was born April 28, 1926, in Pineland to Bertha Cunningham Walker and Delbert Alonzo Walker. He married Linola Anne Gray in 1944, and they had one son Nolan, and three daughters, Brenda, Nola and Virginia.

Hestel grew up in Houston and at age 17 joined the U.S. Navy Submarine Service. He was honored for distinguished service by Admiral Nimitz, with a personal commendation for his bravery in saving the crew of the USS Rasher while under attack during World War II. He also received commendations, signed by Admiral Forrestal, for three Presidential Unit Citations and was awarded the Bronze Star.

After World War II, Hestel and family settled in the Houston area where he began his career in the automotive maintenance industry. He was distinguished for his ethics and abilities, which led to several important positions at Frank Gillman Pontiac in Houston. It was here that Hestel first met Alma Jean (Rasbury) Bean, a 1947 graduate of Decatur High School, who also worked at Gillman's.

In 1979, Hestel and Linola moved to the Fort Worth area, where he worked in a variety of positions at several auto dealerships. After Linola's death, he renewed his friendship with Alma Jean, and in 1988, after being widowed for several years, he married Alma Jean, who had one son, Randy Carson, and wife, Jan.

Together, Hestel and Jean shared 12 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. They spent their retirement with their family, as well as attending and hosting USS Rasher reunions around the country.

Additionally, Hestel joined the Masonic Lodge, where he became an active 32nd-degree Mason. Hestel also liked cooking, helping others and keeping the house and yard meticulously maintained. He was an avid fisherman and shared many camping and fishing adventures with his family.

Hestel was dearly loved and respected by all who knew him, and he will be deeply missed. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Linola; daughter Virginia; brother Hirschell; and granddaughter Stephanie.