



John Holtzclaw

November 11, 1925 - April 22, 2009

John Edward son of Helen Amanda (Mars) and Earnest Hubble Holtzclaw was born November 11, 1925 in Wichita, Kansas. He passed away suddenly at his home in Alva on April 22, 2009 at the age of 83 years, 5 months and 11 days.

He attended the Sapulpa School System where he graduated from high school with the class of 1944. John served in the Army Airforce as a Staff Sargeant during WWII as an air crew member on B-24 Armament Gunners in the China India Burma Theater.

On September 15, 1946 John married Zelda Darlene Enochs in Sapulpa, Oklahoma. To their marriage a son, Mark John was born.

John attended college at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa; Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois where he received his Horology Degree; and NYU City College in New York City.

In 1954 John, along with his wife Darlene, founded Holtzclaw's Jewelry Store in Alva, Oklahoma. They operated this much loved business for 37 years, selling the finest of jewelry, china, silver, and giftware. On December 21, 1994, Lynn Martin of the Alva Review Courier wrote, "It is doubtful Alva will ever again see the likes of a Holtzclaw Jewelry. John could fabricate anything. His design taste was outstanding...but he could make minuscule photo parts,

too.”

In 1967 John founded Jole' Manufacturing in Alva. This company manufactured 18k gold and platinum settings with Kaplan diamonds and fine colored stones. His works were distributed by Kaplan and many of the fine jewelers in the U.S., including Tiffany, Cartier, Michael Schiffner and many more.

Business interests dictated John and Darlene travel world-wide with visits to major gem and gold deposits and all major jewelry markets.

John won international awards for his jewelry designs, including the prestigious Diamonds International Award in 1987.

He was a member of the American Gem Society, where he served as a member of the Diamond Standards Committee. He also served as both president and vice-president of the Southwest Guild.

In addition to his outstanding jewelry skills, many customers will long treasure the craftsmanship of his one-of-a-kind hand-engraved pieces.

John was a member of the First United Methodist Church and the Alva Golf and Country Club.

Those in Alva may best remember John for his love of the game of golf. John spent countless hours at the Alva Golf and Country Club working on his game and also devoted much of his retirement to refining his golf clubs in his manufacturing shop in Alva.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Helen and Earnest.

John is survived by his wife Darlene of the home; one son Mark and his wife Joyce of Bakersfield, California; one grandson Brad of Tulsa, Oklahoma; all the girls from Holtzclaw's Jewelry Store; very special friends Adam and Andrew Holder; and many friends and devoted customers.

He will lay in state at the funeral chapel until Friday evening at 9:00 P.M.

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Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR **25**. 10:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
626 College Ave.
Alva, Ok

Tribute Wall

LJ

“ To John's family. I did not know John for a long time but became a friend as a result of a mutual love of golf. I appreciate John's interest in the improvement of my game as he taught me a number of things to help lower my handicap. But, more than that, I appreciate the memories of riding with him in his cart or sitting behind our cars as we talked about everything from golf to politics to God's richest blessings and hearing wonderful stories about his experiences with gems. Sincerely, I grew to count John as a very good friend. God blessed my life with John Holtzclaw.

Larry Justice - May 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Deepest Sympathy to you Darlene. I have fond memories of John and you. Our wedding was the first that you did for showers and weddings. I still have the roses you made for the display of the China. John and You were great people to work. As Sharon worked for you a number of years. Take care. Louise

Louise Schoeling - April 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SJ

“ I remember going into "Holtzclaw's" as a child. I use to ooh & aahh at all the wonderful treasures that were displayed through out that special store. What great memories I have of John & his store! I still have one of my mothers Elgin watches that he took loving care of. I gladly inheritted my mothers 'special' flatware from his store. I am sorry for our loss.

Sheila Steffen Jaskowiak - April 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ *My mother visited Holtzclaw's Jewelry almost every time she came into town.*

I still have a 12 piece set of dishes purchased there and a pendant John made from her first engagement ring. Darlene, if there is anything I can help you with just give me a call. -Linda Joseph

Linda Joseph - April 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ *darlene,*

i am so sorry for your loss.seems i have known you and john all my life.after D called and told me about john yesterday,i thought back to the times i would go into the jewelry store with dad.there was always a scent to the store.as i thought about it,i could smell that scent in my mind.i can also remember after the fire dad coming home with a couple buckets of watches john had "unloaded" on dad.mom spent hours cleaning the soot off of them.she managed to get them all clean.i still have a couple of them.still running.

john will be missed,not only by you but all those that he touched.may god bless you and mark.

raymond knabe - April 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ *Darlene, Mark and Family,*

Many fond memories Bill and I will always have of John and you.

Thinking of you

Bill and Linda Beeler

Bill and Linda Beeler - April 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM