

CHARLES THOMAS GETTYS



Charles Thomas Gettys, 86, a long-time Decatur business and civic leader, died on Wednesday, September 19, 2007, in Carrollton, Texas.

Charles "Tom" Gettys was born August 6, 1921 in Fort Worth, to Cicero Thomas Gettys and Alberta Vanness Walker Gettys. He married Janice Mann in 1947, in Artesia, New Mexico.

At a very young age, Tom was known for his creativity and his ability to perfect carpenter skills resulted in him being known as "Mr. Fix It".

After high school, Tom attended Decatur Baptist College, in Decatur, Texas and graduated in 1940. He attended Baylor University and transferred to North Texas Teachers College in Denton and was just a few hours short of qualifying for a medical school, when he was drafted. He was assigned to the Military Police, but secured a transfer to the Medical Corps and graduated from the United States Army School of Medical Technology, Brooke Army Hospital and 8th Service Command laboratory, Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas.

Most of the four years in the Army was spent at the NCO in charge of the Department of Microbiology, 1879th Service Command, Station Hospital, Camp Livingston, LA. During this time, Tom wrote an autobiography titled, Camp Livingston's Prisoner of War Internment Camp World War II. After his discharge from the Army in 1946, he returned to Decatur and began teaching at Decatur Baptist College and in 1962 resigned from teaching and opened his own insurance company that is still known as Allied Agency.

He was a member of the Decatur Chamber of Commerce, Decatur Lions Club, and was Vice Chairman for the Planning and Zoning Commission. He served on the Board of Directors for Decatur Community Hospital and the First National Bank of Decatur.

He is survived by his wife, Janice Mann of Decatur, Daughter; Leisa Waylett and husband, Manshadow Waylett; Charlotte Meador and husband, Franklin Meador; son Ronald Gettys, all of Decatur; five grandchildren; two great grandchildren; two sisters; numerous nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

Tom is preceded in death by his parents.

Honorary pallbearers were Sammy Renshaw, Rex Gage, Dr. W. M. Lewis, Franklin Meador, and Manshadow Waylett.

Pallbearers were Chance Overton, Martin Woodruff, Tim Woodruff, Melton Cude, Franklin Meador, and Ray Nellis

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at The First Baptist Church of Decatur. Rev. Ken May and Rev. Thomas Brummet officiated. Interment was at Oaklawn Cemetery.

*Coker-Hawkins Funeral Home
405 E. Main • Decatur*