



Elray Matzke

June 5, 1932 - December 12, 2025

Elray Matzke of McKinney, formerly of El Campo, died December 12, 2025 at the age of 93. He was born in El Campo June 5, 1932 to Walter W. and Antonia Hermann Matzke. He married Colleen Melburn Matzke, M.D. on December 27, 1968.

Elray was one of the first Ricebirds and under his leadership, the team went to many Championship games. He was awarded a full football scholarship to the University of Houston, and then played for the Ft. Hood Tankers during his military service. He was appointed President of the University of Houston Letterman.

He farmed the Matzke family land for many years. His greatest loves were his wife Colleen, who commuted from her work at Texas Medical Center to help him at the farm, and fishing. The couple fished together and they won many fishing tournaments. He was a great cook taking many classes under Jacques Pepin and Mary Nell Reck. Elray also enjoyed traveling, skiing, and dancing. Elray is survived by his wife of 56 years, Colleen Matzke, M.D. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Walter Matzke, and grandparents Herman and Sophie Embrock Matzke, who had 12 children in El Campo, including Eugene Matzke who was an Air Force Pilot who died on Christmas Eve during WW II.

Visitation will begin 1:00 pm Thursday, December 18, 2025, at St. Philip Catholic Church with a parish rosary being recited at 1:30 pm. The funeral Mass will begin at 2:00 pm in the church with Rev. Dalton Ervin officiating.

Entombment will follow at Holy Cross Memorial Park with Military Honors under the auspices of American Legion Post 251.

Serving as pallbearers are Michael Watz, Jason Dippel, Keith Strnadel, Jared Strnadel, Jason Hoelscher and Matthew Hoelscher.

Cemetery Details

Holy Cross Memorial Park

1617 South Mechanic Street
El Campo, TX 77437
(979) 543-3770

Previous Events

Family Will Receive Visitors

DEC 18. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

St. Philip Catholic Church
304 W. Church Street
El Campo, TX 77437
<http://stphilipapostle.org/>

Rosary

DEC 18. 1:30 PM - 1:50 PM (CT)

St. Philip Catholic Church
304 W. Church Street
El Campo, TX 77437
<http://stphilipapostle.org/>

Entombment

DEC 18 (CT)

Holy Cross Memorial Park
1617 South Mechanic Street
El Campo, TX 77437
(979) 543-3770

Tribute Wall

KT

“ So sorry for your loss, Colleen. Elray was always a fun loving spirit to all. Joe Ray really enjoyed spending time with his cousin. We all enjoyed visiting you both at the family reunions.
Love, Kim



Kim Tirlia - January 29 at 09:50 PM

MB

“ So sorry I missed the funeral. Tommy and I planned on going, but things happen. Tommy has dementia (Alzheimer's) , he remembered selling the Boston Whaler to you, yesterday when I told him that Elroy had passed. Today was a different story. I have to take one day at a time. We make plans but sometimes they change. May God bless you. Tommy and Mary Kay Drapela Beard

Mary Kay and Tommy Beard - December 18, 2025 at 04:50 PM

PM

“ Peggy, Judd, Tom, Christian and Morgan purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Elray Matzke.



Peggy, Judd, Tom, Christian and Morgan - December 17, 2025 at 05:17 PM

TP

“ TX Presleys purchased the *Sacred Duty Spray* for the family of Elray Matzke.



TX Presleys - December 16, 2025 at 09:28 PM

TP

“ TX Presleys planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Elray Matzke.

TX Presleys - December 16, 2025 at 09:28 PM

TS

“ TJ Johnson and Shawna purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Elray Matzke.



TJ Johnson and Shawna - December 16, 2025 at 05:29 PM

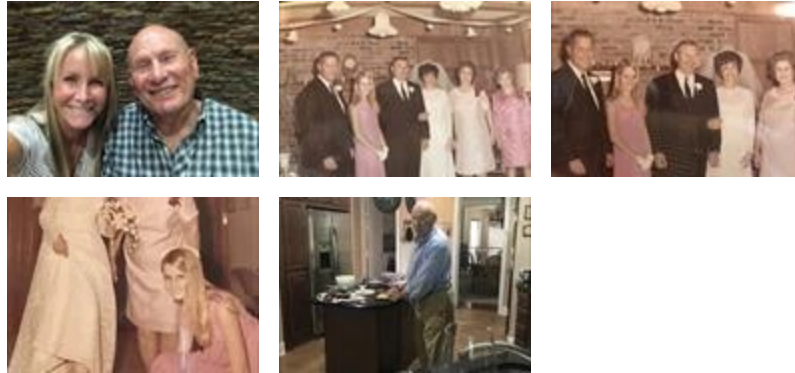
TS

“ TJ Johnson and Shawna planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Elray Matzke.

TJ Johnson and Shawna - December 16, 2025 at 05:29 PM

DG

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



diane matzke griffith - December 16, 2025 at 04:19 PM

DB

“ Diane Busby lit a candle in memory of Elray Matzke



Diane Busby - December 15, 2025 at 03:59 PM