

Calvin R. Henze passed away on July 16, 2024, at the age of 100 in New Braunfels, Texas. He was born January 28, 1924, in the farmhouse built by his great-grandfather in 1882 in Barbarossa, near New Braunfels.

The elementary school he attended was a one-room school with five grades and one teacher. Calvin rode his pony to school. There was no busing in those days. He graduated from high school in 1941. During the summers he worked on the farm chopping and picking cotton and working in the field with two mules.

In February 1943 he enlisted in the Army Air Force, and after he completed his basic training, he was sent to England in October 1943, where he served in the Eighth Air Force. He received an Honorable Discharge in February 1946. After returning from the service, he went to a dance at Echo Hall (now Eagles) in New Braunfels, and there was Irene, the love of his life, waiting for him. He asked her to dance, she accepted, and they danced together from then on; they even danced to a Strauss Waltz in Strauss Park in Vienna, Austria. They were married on February 14, 1947, at First Protestant Church, New Braunfels, and were married 77 years.

In September 1946 Calvin enrolled in college, and in August 1949 he received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a major in accounting. Calvin graduated in the top 10% of his class. He attended college in the morning, and in the afternoon he worked as a meter reader, lineman helper, and office clerk at an electric cooperative in Seguin. After graduating from college, he went to work for City Public Service in San Antonio as an internal auditor and later as controller of City Water Board. Calvin received his Certified Public Accountants Certificate in May 1954.

In 1961 he became Controller of Memphis Light, Gas, and Water (MLGW), and his first job was to install a computer for 300,000 customer accounts. The computer had 980 bytes of memory. The customer accounts system also provided information for dispatching of trouble calls and rate and line loading studies. He was promoted to General Manager, and in September 1969 he was appointed President and Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. He retired in September 1978. During his tenure at MLGW he served seven years on the Board of Directors of the American Public Power Association and one year as President of the Association. He also served on the Gas Research Institute Board of Directors. Calvin was listed in the 1984-85 edition of WHO'S WHO in America.

In October 1978 he was employed as General Manager and CEO of Florida Municipal Power Agency in Orlando, Florida, a new joint action agency consisting of 26 city-owned electric systems from Tallahassee to Key West. They joined together to provide for their future power supply. Calvin was the first employee, and his office was in a Days Inn until they acquired an office. To meet the cities' future power needs, the Agency bought an interest in a nuclear plant, two coal fired plants, and four combustion turbines. He initiated a project by which the Agency provided the power requirements for 12 cities that were buying their power requirements from other utilities. The 12 cities saved over \$132 million in ten years. Calvin retired in January 1992. He said that to be the first General Manager and CEO of FMPPA was an opportunity of a lifetime to guide the development of the Agency from no office, no staff, no projects, no revenues, and no

assets in 1978 to an Agency in 1992 with a staff of 24, a 12,000-square foot office building, 9 projects, annual revenues of \$156 million, and assets of \$631 million.

After he retired, he volunteered at AARP doing income tax filings, and he counseled individuals at Senior Corp of Retired Executives (SCORE) who were planning to go into business or who were in business and needed help. He also was active in church, serving on multiple finance committees. Calvin was a member of the Texas Society of CPAs, San Antonio Chapter of CPAs and a lifetime member of the American Legion.

Calvin enjoyed playing softball, bowling, going to the beach at Corpus Christi with his family, and dancing with Irene to the Big Band music of the 30s and 40s. With Calvin serving on the boards of national organizations, Calvin and Irene visited all the states except North and South Dakota. They returned to New Braunfels in November 2005.

Calvin was preceded in death by his parents, Martin and Alice Nolte Henze, his brother Jerome and his wife, and his sister Letrice. He is survived by Irene, his wife of 77 years, his two daughters, Sandra Cress (Kim) and Patti Salkowski (John), five grandchildren and their spouses, and three great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital, First Protestant Church of New Braunfels, or a charity of your choice.

For funeral details, please visit doepenschmidtfuneralhome.com