



Ray Harlow Potter

December 19, 1936 - July 19, 2025

As Ray Harlow Potter said, "I began my days on an alfalfa farm east of Jet, Oklahoma. Born on December 19, 1936, to Floyd R. and Grace Potter, in Enid, Oklahoma. Ray's father was a farmer, and his mother taught sixth grade in the Jet school system—a fact that proved mildly traumatic the year Ray found himself in her classroom. He often referred to it as "the longest year of his life" though he somehow survived to tell the tale.

Ray shared his childhood with a younger sister, Pat Potter Davison, who would likely admit Ray was both her tormentor and best friend. School was not optional in the Potter household. Ray rose to the academic challenge, all while making time for football, basketball, and track and field. Unfortunately, a knee and shoulder injury during his junior year cut short his athletic aspirations. Ray fondly recalled his years in Jet and Enid. He also recalled one particularly memorable and ill-fated attempt at chewing tobacco, which he never forgot and never repeated.

After moving to Enid the summer before his senior year, Ray graduated as valedictorian from Enid High School in 1955. He went on to Phillips University in Enid, OK, where he majored in accounting and business, earning his bachelor's degree in June 1959. Ray earned his Juris Doctor in 1962 from Drake University Law School in Des Moines, IA, graduating in the top 25% of his class. He worked his way through law school with a variety of part-time jobs including clothing salesman, janitor, shoe salesman, yard clerk for a railroad, general work in a funeral home, and delivery boy for a florist. No task

was beneath him and every experience had value.

Ray launched his legal career in 1962 in Lovington, NM, entering private practice before serving as an Assistant District Attorney beginning in 1965. Two years later, he became Vice President and Trust Officer of a local bank in Hobbs, NM. After eleven years, he moved to Houston, TX, and worked on the legal team at Superior Oil Company. Ray later opened his own law firm specializing in insurance defense, representing both domestic companies and Lloyd's of London. In 1996, Ray began conducting title searches for various oil companies to determine title to oil, gas, minerals and surface for leasing and exploration.

Ray's first wife, Deanna, was the mother of his three children: Robin, Rory and Rene. Deanna's tragic passing in an airplane crash in 1975 left Ray a widower and a single father to three teenagers. He met the challenge with courage, humor, and a healthy dose of trial-and-error parenting. Ray often traveled to London, England for work and Rotary Club. During his time in England, Ray met his second wife. They were married for 17 years. In 1999, Ray married Susie Gann Potter. They shared more than 26 years of marriage and remained devoted to one another until Ray's death.

Ray is predeceased by his father and mother, Floyd R and Grace Potter, his first wife, Deanna Hudson Potter and a granddaughter, Abigail Gwyn Hinshaw. He is survived by his wife, Susie Potter. Three children, Robin Potter Kimball (Byron) of Oklahoma City, OK, Rory Potter (Karen) of Houston, TX, and Rene Potter Hinshaw (Charles) of New Market, MD. Two grandchildren, Hudson Hinshaw of Washington, DC, and Hope Hinshaw of Stillwater, OK. Also, a stepson, Randall Gann (Jera) and step-grandchildren, Laurel Gann Bryant (Brandon) of Charleston, SC, and Tyler Gordon Gann of Albuquerque, NM. Also, his sister, Pat Potter Davison, Oklahoma City, OK.

Celebration of Life will be held September 13, 2025, at 2pm at St Mary's Episcopal Church, 15415 N Eldridge Parkway, Cypress, TX 77429 A reception at the church will follow the service. Grave side will be in Lovington, NM at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Mary's Episcopal Church, PO Box 1542, Cypress, TX 77429 or NM Christian Children's Home 1356 New Mexico 236, Portales, NM 8813.

Tribute Wall



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Ray Harlow Potter.* ”



September 11, 2025 at 06:32 PM



“ *I met Ray and Susie when they became participants in a ministry at my church called The Gathering Place. It is a ministry for people with mild to moderate memory loss. We “love on” that person while the caregiver can have a respite. Susie loved The Gathering Place so much that she always stayed with Ray and enjoyed the activities we did. I have to be honest, they were truly one of my faves. Everyone loved them. I had the blessing of visiting with them just before Ray passed away. As I sat next to him, I told him that I loved him. Susie and I were amazed when he whispered softly back to me, “I love you too!” I will never forget that, and I will never forget him!* ”

Linda Lalla - September 09, 2025 at 09:53 AM



Thank you Linda! The Gathering is amazing and you and your staff the best. Thank you for all you did for us. Ray loved going. It gave him great joy.

Susie Potter - September 24, 2025 at 01:34 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ray Harlow Potter.*



August 14, 2025 at 02:00 PM



“ *When Ray and Deanna moved to Lovington, we had children the ages of their children so we became fun friends. We went to the mountains and cut Christmas trees in hip deep snow. Ray decided to try his hand at being a cowboy. He roped with Benny and Larry with our families there watching the action. However, the Potters moved to Hobbs. Then, several years later, life sadly changed with Deanna’s tragic death. Ray and the children moved to Houston. Ray’s children grew up. About 17 years later, Ray called me and asked if I thought Susie might go to dinner with him. Ray had helped Susie campaign for county clerk, many years ago in Lovington. I said, “I’ll give you her number and you can ask her.” Well, Ray lived in Houston and Susie lived in Lubbock. Ray was a kind, fun gentleman of the old school who liked to dine in fine restaurants and go to classical music venues. Susie found she did, too. On Valentine’s Day, they tied the love knot. How beautiful it was to watch their love grow and blossom. I loved having Ray’s children in my life again. I was pleased to call Ray, my brother-in-law, and attorney. He came in handy when I needed a legalese letter, twice. It worked. Ray’s last gift to all of his family and friends is joining us together to celebrate Ray, the old school gentleman who was a believer and had confidence and peace that he would see us again, his family and friends.*



Sylvia Mahoney - August 13, 2025 at 04:10 PM

LA

“ *Liliana Ahualli purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Ray Harlow Potter.*



Liliana Ahualli - August 01, 2025 at 08:13 AM

JB

“ *Jesenda Burns purchased the Sympathy Gift Vintage Wind Chime - "I Have You In My Heart" for the family of Ray Harlow Potter.*



Jesenda Burns - July 31, 2025 at 04:24 AM

LL

“ I've known Ray all my life. He's always been "family" but that became official when he married my Aunt Susie. Things were fun when Ray was around. His happy spirit couldn't help but make you smile. One of my favorite memories was going to the mountains at Christmas time to cut down a Christmas tree. The tree looked so small in the forest but somehow it grew by the time we set it up in the house. Decorating the giant tree was so much fun. Another memory was at my husband's 50th birthday party. We were playing a game and Ray quickly became the star of the show. He kept the whole room laughing so hard our sides ached. Later, all of our friends wanted to know when Uncle Ray would be back to visit again because they wanted to see him! That's the influence he had on people. Everyone loved Ray. I will miss him dearly, but the impact he had on my life will be felt forever. When we get to join him someday in Heaven, I'm sure he will be waiting with a big grin and a joke questioning why it took us so long to get there. Until that day, I'll miss him. Much love! Lesli

Lesli Laughter - July 30, 2025 at 06:02 PM

SP

Appreciate your sweet comments and reminder of fun memories.

Susie Potter - August 02, 2025 at 09:17 AM

SH

“ Ray was a long time friend of our. We were together so much that all our kids thought we were related some how, Was at their home in lovington, then Hobbs many many times, to the fact when we left lovington to go to college we bought their car to drive, I smiling now remembering all the times we were together. Also sad for his family for their loss. RIP ole friend. Condolences to family. Gary and Sandy Hudson

Sandra Hudson - July 30, 2025 at 01:32 PM

CB

I knew Ray thru his mother Grace, she was one of my best friends in Enid, OK. I was part of his wedding with his English wife. I visited them in Houston. And now have kept in touch Ray and Deanna for all these years. He will be missed. And prayers are for Deanna and his family.

Carleta Barton - August 01, 2025 at 07:49 AM

SP

Thanks, Sandy. The Potter friendship goes way back. So many fun memories.

Susie Potter - August 02, 2025 at 09:20 AM

SP

Thanks, Carleta. You had a long friendship with Ray. Susie

Susie Potter - August 02, 2025 at 09:23 AM

JP

We enjoyed getting to know Ray through our friendship with Susie. He loved sitting and listening to our girl conversations, often adding a humorous remark. He especially enjoyed when Susie hosted a coffee, giving him the chance to spend a few minutes with what he called "all the beautiful ladies." Ray will be deeply missed, and we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, Joyce & Bill Palm

Joyce & Bill Palm - August 18, 2025 at 03:33 PM

SP

Thank you, Bill and Joyce. Ray enjoyed your friendship and was thankful for it because you did so much to help us.

Susie Potter - August 23, 2025 at 12:45 PM