



Risdon "Hank" Hankinson

December 11, 1938 - March 8, 2026

Dr. Risdon William "Hank" Hankinson, a distinguished chemical engineer, devoted community leader, and beloved family man, passed away peacefully on March 8, 2026, in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, at the age of 87.

Born on December 11, 1938, in St. Joseph, Missouri, Hank was the son of William and Rose Mary Hankinson. He graduated from Lafayette High School in 1956, where, just prior to graduation, he met the love of his life, Lyla Lee Pollard and was married on June 4, 1960, at Christ Episcopal Church in St. Joseph—a union that would span nearly 66 years of shared adventure, faith, and family.

A lifelong scholar, Hank earned his B.S. and M.S. from the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy (now Missouri S&T) and his Ph.D. from Iowa State University in 1967. Prior to embarking on his Ph.D program, he offered service to his country; he served as a Captain in the U.S. Army Chemical Corps, earning the Chemical School Excellence Award during his active duty at Fort McClellan.

In 1967, Hank and Lyla arrived in Bartlesville for what they thought would be a two-year stay with Phillips Petroleum Company. Instead, they fell in love with the "Supercity" and stayed for nearly six decades. Hank's career at Phillips was impressive, culminating in his role as Manager of Advanced Modeling Technology. A Fellow of the AIChE and the Oklahoma Society of Professional

Engineers, he was honored with the prestigious Hanlon Award in 1996, one of the highest accolades in the petroleum industry. Hank authored countless technical papers and presented his work worldwide. He served as Adjunct Professor of Mathematics at Oklahoma State University (1965–75) and Oklahoma Wesleyan (1967–71).

Beyond his professional success, Hank's heart belonged to his community and his faith. After joining the Catholic Church in 1975, he became heavily involved at St. John before the Latin Gate Catholic Church, serving as a Grand Knight for the Knights of Columbus, an RCIA instructor for over 20 years, and a member of the Parish Council. He was also a past President of the Downtown Kiwanis Club, Board Chair for the Alcohol and Drug Center Inc., and was a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

In retirement, Hank swapped thermodynamics for the written word. He became an accomplished writer, publishing several works in amateur anthologies and finding great joy in storytelling. He enjoyed traveling, was a reluctant but enthusiastic golfer, and a man who cherished Sunday afternoons at the club pool with his family.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Lyla Lee Hankinson of Bartlesville; his sister Elizabeth Miller of Odessa, Missouri; his five children: Ken Hankinson of Vinita, OK; Michelle Ramsey of Bartlesville; Mike Hankinson with his wife Misty of Lake Jackson, TX; Mark Hankinson with his wife Lindsey of Dallas, TX; and Doug Hankinson with his wife Stacey of Edmond, OK. He also leaves behind six cherished grandchildren who will miss Papaw dearly. He is preceded in death by his son-in-law, Rodney Ramsey.

Hank often said he was "among the very fortunate" because he truly loved his work and his life. He leaves behind a legacy of integrity, intellectual curiosity,

and a strong commitment to his family.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Park Cemetery

4200 Nowata Road
Bartlesville , OK 74006

Previous Events

Come & Go Visitation

MAR 11. 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory
1600 SE Washington Blvd.
Bartlesville, OK 74006
(918) 333-4300
info@stumpff.org
<https://www.stumpff.org>

Rosary

MAR 11. 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM (CT)

Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory
1600 SE Washington Blvd.
Bartlesville, OK 74006
(918) 333-4300
info@stumpff.org
<https://www.stumpff.org>

Funeral Service

MAR **12.** 10:00 AM (CT)

St John's Catholic Church
715 S Johnstone Ave
Bartlesville, OK 74003
(918) 336-4353

Tribute Wall

RR

“ Dr. Hankinson interviewed me in 1997 for a job in the Modeling and Simulation group at Phillips Petroleum Company. With his deep-voice, he leaned over the table and said, “You have fantastic modeling skills”. After I got hired, he was my mentor and we met for lunch at the Frank Phillips hotel every other Friday. He asked me to speak during his retirement ceremony and that was an honor (I was one of the chosen three). He shielded me during the 1999 layoffs by giving me work assignments from his group. He was youthful in driving a red-color Mitsubishi 3000-GT. So many memories! Very richly lived life!

Raj Rajagopalan - March 11 at 10:52 AM



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Risdon "Hank" Hankinson.



March 11 at 10:49 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Risdon "Hank" Hankinson.

March 11 at 10:49 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Risdon "Hank" Hankinson.*



March 10 at 09:55 PM



“ *Hank was a technically sharp engineer, a fabulous mentor, and a wonderful friend. The picture of couples shows Bartlesville Phillips Petroleum friends. The picture of just guys shows University of Missouri - Rolla alumni (Hank, Doug Ludlow, Bob Pahl, Dennis Glascock, and Steve Bridges).*



Dennis Glascock - March 10 at 05:55 PM