



Ernest P. Toelken

March 3, 1935 - January 13, 2026

Ernest P. Toelken, 90 of Surfside Beach passed away peacefully on January 13, 2026, after a short battle with Leukemia.

Ernie was born in Manhattan, NY and was the son of Hermann and Anne Toelken. He is preceded in death by his parents, brother Alfred Toelken and first wife Ruth Toelken. He is survived by his daughters Karla Thurkettle (Chris Thurkettle) Naples, FL, Kelly Fleming (Tim Fleming), Nesconset, NY, grandchildren Janelle, Kaylee, Riley, Devyn, Camryn and Parker and wife, Sherry Harmon.

Ernie proudly served in the United States Air Force, where he used his training and skills to go on to become an airline mechanic for Pan American Airlines. He served in this role for 35 years, until they closed their doors and ceased operations.

After the passing of his wife Ruth, he devoted himself to raising his two daughters, assuming the role of cook, chauffeur, and sports dad.

After retirement he moved to South Carolina, where he met Sherry and their adventures began. He spent his time volunteering first with the VA Cline and St. Michael Catholic Church as well as the Myrtle Beach International Airport where he served until this past Fall.

Ernie will be most remembered for his kindness and willingness to help others, but especially for his quick wit and sense of humor... with a touch of sarcasm.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, January 24, 2026 at 1:30 PM at Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel in Murrells Inlet, SC.

In lieu of flowers the family asks you to make donations to your favorite charity.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN **24**. 1:30 PM (ET)

Goldfinch Funeral Home Beach Chapel
11528 Highway 17 Bypass
Murrells Inlet
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576

Tribute Wall

LF

“ Love, The Knodel Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ernest P. Toelken.



Love, The Knodel Family - January 22 at 05:59 PM

SR

“ Steve & Mary Held & Michael Rodriguez purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ernest P. Toelken.



Steve & Mary Held & Michael Rodriguez - January 16 at 10:04 AM