

Calkins, James Shelby | 1922-2011

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Memorial for James Shelby Calkins, 89, of Decatur was to be 2 p.m. Saturday, June 4, at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Decatur.

A second memorial service is 4 p.m. Saturday, June 11, at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Tularosa, N.M.

Calkins died Tuesday, May 31, 2011, in Decatur.

Born Feb. 24, 1922, in Oklahoma City to Roy and Wenona (Davis) Calkins, he grew up in Sacramento, N.M., and married Dorothy Dean Chandler March 27, 1961. She preceded him in death Aug. 4, 1989.

He established Basin Pipe and Metal in Alamogordo, N.M., in 1967. When he retired in 1984, he began making violins and received awards for his craftsmanship.

Calkins was baptized as one of Jehovah's Witnesses Oct. 1, 1969, and presided as an elder for many years.

He moved to Denton in 1990 to help in the construction of an assembly hall of Jehovah's Witnesses where he met his second wife, Lillian Pauline Geist. They married Sept. 5, 1992, and moved to Decatur.

Calkins was preceded in death by his first wife; and brothers Bruce Calkins and Homer Calkins.

He is survived by his wife; daughter Robin Geist and husband, Lance, of Tularosa, N.M.; grandchildren Britney Giest and Trevor Giest; stepchildren Larry Davis of Decatur, Toni Wood of Dallas and Michele Martinez of Irving.

Calkins is also survived by his sister, Frances Fenimore, of Alamogordo; and nieces, nephews and other family members