

Harold Joseph Boutin

Harold Joseph Boutin passed away on Tuesday afternoon, May 27, 2025. Born in Detroit on July 4, 1929, to Marie Cybulski and Harold Boutin, Harold's life was shaped by the Great Depression.

Witnessing his father lose a career as a stockbroker and later become a Detroit police officer instilled in Harold a strong drive to seek a life of stability and financial security for his family. His ingenuity was evident early on—he bought a small printing press as a child and started a free, ad-supported neighborhood newspaper. His dedication to academics earned him a full scholarship to the University of Michigan's School of Engineering.

Tragedy struck during his first year at the university when his father died unexpectedly on March 5, 1948, at the age of 40. Though grief nearly compelled him to leave school, his mother urged him to stay. With the support of his aunt and uncle, who helped sell their home and purchase a duplex to ease financial burdens, Harold persevered.

"Hal" graduated with a B.S. in Engineering from the University of Michigan in 1951, and completed his M.B.A. a year later. He served as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force Reserve before beginning a 35-year career at the J.L. Hudson department store company in Detroit. Known for his leadership and innovation, he rose through the ranks, implementing new technologies and ultimately retiring as Director of Personnel in 1991.

While at Hudson's, Harold met the love of his life, Mary Ann Caputo. They were married on September 10, 1955, in Detroit, even having their wedding cake made at the Hudson's bakery in honor of the company where they met. Together, they raised four children—Kathy, Bob, Janet, and Joanne—and welcomed nine grandchildren. After retiring, Harold and Mary Ann moved to Asheville, North Carolina, where they enjoyed 17 wonderful years together in the home they built.

In retirement, Harold became a passionate photographer, capturing the beauty of nature and joyful family moments. A proud University of Michigan alumnus, he remained a devoted Wolverines fan, rarely missing a televised football or basketball game.

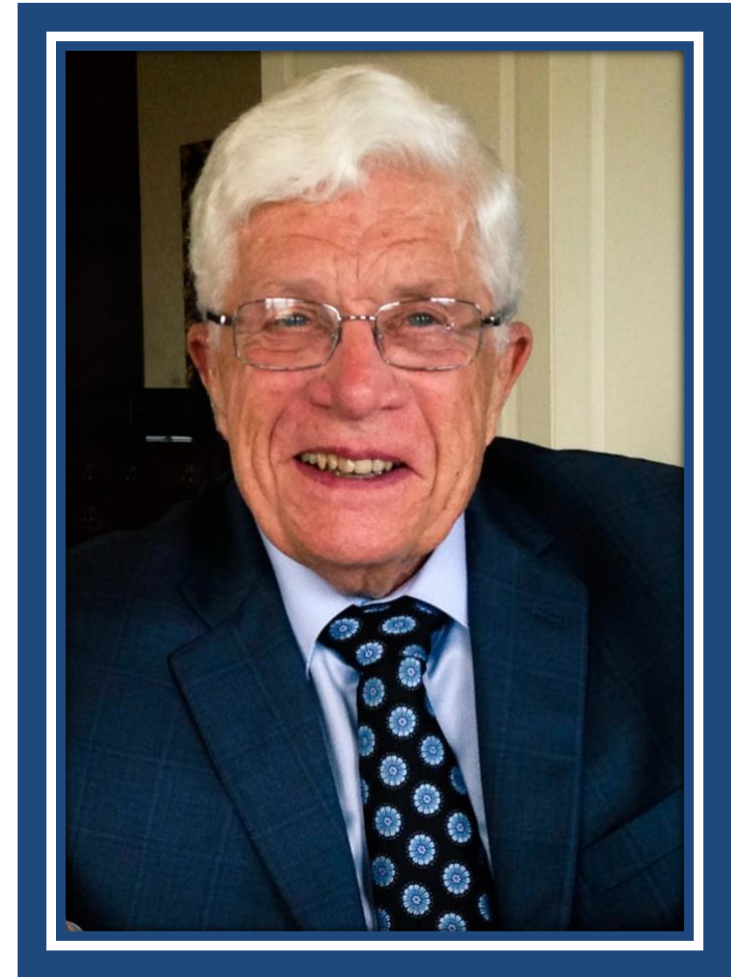
Family was the heart of Harold's life. He found deep joy in being present for life's big milestones and everyday moments alike, often sharing time and conversation on his back porch. After Mary Ann's passing in 2008, Harold continued to explore his love for photography, cooking, and engineering home adaptations that allowed him to live independently well into his 90s.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harold Joseph Boutin and Marie Theresa Cybulski; his beloved wife, Mary Ann; his son, Robert James Boutin; his brother, Richard Arthur Boutin; and his sister, Carol Joy (Boutin) McGuckin.

He is lovingly remembered by his daughters and their spouses: Kathleen Ann Boutin-Pasterz (Peter Pasterz), Janet Marie (Boutin) Parrelly (Dean Handy), and Joanne Lynn (Boutin) Moss (Roger); his grandchildren: Anna Boutin (Pasterz) Bryan (Kyle), Nicole Catherine (Boutin) Graney (Ryan), Mark Robert Boutin, Elise Marie Boutin, Ashlee Marie Parrelly, Derek Anthony Parrelly (Kelli), Zachary Tyler Moss, Ryan Samuel Moss, and Sydney Lina Moss. He is also survived by six great-grandchildren: Scarlett Rose Parrelly, Gianna Muriel Browning, Donovan James Parrelly, Caleb Patrick Graney, Catherine Elise Graney, and Kira Marianne Bryan.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to **Hurricane Helene Relief / United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County**, to support recovery efforts for storm victims.

A Service of Celebration for the Life of **Harold Joseph Boutin** July 4, 1929 – May 27, 2025



Saturday, July 19, 2025 at 2:00 PM
Central United Methodist Church
27 Church Street, Asheville, North Carolina

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil:

For thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Minister

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

Organist

Corey Powell

Order of Worship

Prelude

Corey Powell

Welcome and Words of Grace

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

Hymn 452

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

OLIVET

Reading of Psalm 23

Storytelling

Sydney Moss

Ryan Moss

Zachary Moss

Reading of Scripture

John 14:1-4

Storytelling

Janet Parrelly

Kathy Boutin-Pasterz

Joanne Moss

Special Music

“In This Very Room”

Joann Beck, soloist

Ron Harris

Reading of Scripture

Revelation 21:1-7

Reflections and Prayer of Commendation

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

Hymn 707

“Hymn of Promise”

PROMISE

Dismissal with Blessing

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

Postlude

Corey Powell