



A Love Story

Under the Old Oak Tree

If you have ever walked the trail around the Sports Park complex, you have probably noticed a small granite table with a bench and stools, nestled under an old Heritage Oak tree by the fork in the path at the far end of the park. What you may not know is the story behind this special place. This is the story of Charles and Ingeborg Harms.

Charles T Harms met and married Rosemary Gladys Harris in 1957 in Midwest City, Oklahoma. They had three children: Charla Michelle in 1958, Kayellen Lynn in 1960, and Kurt Allen in 1964. Life was good for the Harms for 14 years but then tragedy struck. Rosemary battled breast cancer but succumbed to the disease in 1971.

In 1972, Charles found love again when he met and married Ingeborg Barth, a military widow with three children: Stephan Robert (14), Michael Dale (13), and Melanie Mea (11). Life was very active in the Harms household with six children between the ages of 9 and 14. They bought their home on Stanton Drive in The Oaks in 1996, and it was sold in 2015. In the fall of 2008 Charles and Ingeborg received devastating news. Ingeborg was diagnosed with ALS and passed away in late spring of 2009.

Shortly after the passing of his beloved Ingeborg, Charles embarked on a mission to do something very special in honor of wife. The park where they took their loving walks seemed the perfect location. He requested permission from the VWOA Board of Directors to place a memorial--a 4-piece gray granite table with a curved bench and 2 mushroom stools, with the inscription of "In Memory of Ingeborg Harms". This request was approved, and the memorial was placed under a large Heritage Oak tree located along the walking trail. At his request, the memorial was installed in time for his wife's 75th Birthday on August 3, 2009.

It has been reported that on special occasions over the next several years, Charles was seen visiting the memorial and leaving flowers for his beloved Ingeborg.

Charles passed away on May 3, 2015, after a lengthy battle with Parkinson's disease, Diabetes, and other ailments associated with his military service including exposure to radiation and exposure to Agent Orange. Since then, the family had Charles name added to the memorial ...forever together under the large Heritage Oak that held a special place in their hearts!

So, if you ever need a reminder of everlasting love, stop by the memorial and leave a rose in honor of Ingeborg and Charles.