



The Harmonica Man

Maury Vlasin is 87 and Still Playing Strong

“Let’s sing and dance!” That’s the words of 87-year-old Maurice “Maury” Vlasin, a Katy area resident. He even offers to provide the music. The extremely active gentleman has been playing the harmonica since he was six years old and has a collection of nearly 100 of the “mouth organs”. Even though he has been retired from his profession as a retail tire dealer since 2002, he has not retired from entertaining people, especially those in nursing homes, with familiar music, such as Darktown Strutters Ball, Memories, The Waltz You Saved For Me, Under The Double Eagle, Cotton Eyed Joe, and many others.

Vlasin, born on August 19, 1920 in Wolford, North Dakota, spent his early years in that state and then went into the Army’s 38th Infantry Division as a mortar gunner during WW II. He saw combat at places such as Bataan, Coregador, Luzon, and elsewhere.

Prior to entering the military, he met and married a beautiful young lady by the name of Marion, who was his companion until her death, 63 years later. They were wed in 1941 while still living in North Dakota.

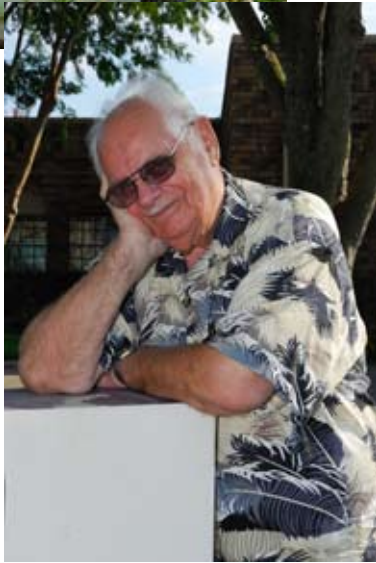


Oakmont is one of many places 87 year old Maurey Vlasin performs



From Grief to Music

After delivering him five sons and a daughter and following him throughout the country, including relocating to Texas, Marion died of complications of a stroke in 2004. Marion spent the final 6 1/2 years of her life in a nursing home due to complete paralysis from the stroke. Their home was in Victoria for more than 30 years. It was while he was visiting his wife in the nursing home that he started entertaining with his harmonica. Shortly thereafter, he started receiving invitations to perform at nursing homes throughout that region. He continued until he relocated to Katy, at the insistence of his children, who wanted him to be closer to them in this area.



Entertaining Katy Area Seniors

When he arrived he moved into Providence Place Apartments in Katy, where he started playing the harmonica and leading sing-songs for the fellow residents. He also started visiting other nearby nursing homes and senior residential areas. Playing of the mouth instrument comes natural to the mustachioed man. "I taught myself to play," he said. "I have not had a lesson. I would just hear something, like it and start playing it. People seem to enjoy the music, and I am big enough of a ham to revel in the attention."

While the affable showman does drive his car, he doesn't like to get too far away from home in the evening, but will be happy to play for seniors in this area. You may reach him by calling 281-579-1493. "Just ask for Maury, The Harmonica Man," he says.

Lee Butler is a Katy resident and was a news reporter for radio, television, and newspapers for more than 25 years. He is the father of five sons, two of whom graduated from Taylor High School.

God has More
for You

*You are welcome
in this place.*

CHURCH OF THE
HOLY APOSTLES

SUNDAYS - 8 & 10:30 AM

1225 West Grand Parkway
281-392-3310
www.holyapostles.cc

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The advertisement features a vertical layout. At the top, a silhouette of a person with arms raised stands on a beach at sunset. Below this is the text "God has More for You" in a serif font, followed by the phrase "You are welcome in this place." in a cursive font. The church's name, "CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES", is written in a large, bold, serif font. Below that, the service times "SUNDAYS - 8 & 10:30 AM", the address "1225 West Grand Parkway", the phone number "281-392-3310", and the website "www.holyapostles.cc" are listed. At the bottom, there is a photograph of the church building, a red brick structure with a steeple, and a copyright notice "©2007 Katy Magazine".