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Services under the direction of:

Fox & Weeks Funeral Directors,
Hodgson Chapel
912-352-7200

VISITATION

4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Tue,
April 19, 2022

Fox & Weeks Funeral Directors,
Hodgson Chapel

7200 Hodgson Memorial Drive
(map)
Savannah GA 31406

912-352-7200



1 CANDLES LIT

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Joost Arie Gompels passed away on April 8, 2022 at 95 years of age. Born on March 15, 1927 to Meyer and Adele Gompels in Cape Town, South Africa, he studied Chemical Engineering in Johannesburg at University of the Witwatersrand and later Law and Economics.

His career started as a Chemist at the African Explosives and Chemical Industries Ltd. In 1951, he moved to the United Kingdom to follow his passions: a fellow South African and future wife of 55 years, Annette Hamlyn Harding; cars, and chemical engineering. Initially a test driver for Aston Martin and restoring a Lagonda automobile, he was hired as a Chemical Engineer at a newly opened oil refinery in Southampton, UK. This marked the beginning of an extraordinary international career in the energy sector with companies that became Mobil (Exxon) Oil Corporation, opening new oil refineries internationally. He returned to South Africa as head of Planning and Economics of a new refinery in Durban. In 1962, he was promoted to a Planning and Supply position in New York City. This set in motion a theme for the following years for him and his family; moving to New Zealand to open the only oil refinery in Whangarei, to Singapore to open another oil refinery, then back to NY Headquarters, where he was promoted to Vice President of Mobil Sales and Supply Corporation.

Following a successful career as a "crude salesman," as he laughingly referred to himself, he became an internationally recognized expert in Alfa Romeo automobiles. He authentically restored a 1954 Alfa Romeo 1900C Super Sprint, affectionately called 'Gina,' winning multiple classic car competitions with her. He founded the Alfa Romeo 1900 directory and owners club and was an invited judge for many leading classic and antique car competitions. In 1985, he and Annette retired to The Landings in Savannah, where he docked, 'Ramblin Rose', a CSY 44. Pursuing their passion for sailing, they sailed throughout the Caribbean, making St. Martin and Anguilla their home ports. A move to Tybee Island in 1999 introduced them to the All Saints Episcopal community, where he served on the Vestry and as Treasurer. His most recent home was in Henderson Golf Community where he served on their HOA for many years. He enjoyed being a volunteer firefighter at the Landings, a member of the Navy League, the Landings Automobile Society, the Oglethorpe Driving Club and a Miracles study group.

He was predeceased by his wife Annette on August 28, 2007.

He is survived by his son Mark (Nina) Gompels of Savannah, GA, daughters Dr. Janet Marler of Albany, NY, Dr. Ursula Gompels of Cambridge, UK, Elizabeth Gompels of Boston, MA, brother Paul (Anette) of Sydney, Australia with nephews Paul (Helen) and Richard (Anne), grandnieces Chelsea, Kiera and Emma and by much loved grandchildren Peter (Josh) Marler, Andrew (Ali) Marler, William Gompels and Matthew Gompels, all of whom will greatly miss their incomparable father, Uppi, brother and uncle. He lived a long and remarkable life.

Visitation will be 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at Fox & Weeks Funeral Directors, Hodgson Chapel, 7200 Hodgson Memorial Drive, Savannah, 31406.

A Requiem Eucharist for family and friends will be held at All Saints Episcopal Church, 804 Jones Ave, Tybee Island in the next few months.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to All Saints Church, P.O. Box 727, Tybee Island, 31328.