



Robert Ritchie

November 9, 1925 - June 17, 2020

Born and raised in San Pedro (born at home on Alma Street) he used to gaze up at the Peninsula from his elementary school with the wish to live there one day. His dream was realized in 1963, purchasing the home, where 57 years later, he passed peacefully. Bob had a passion for music, which began in a local band playing trumpet as a teen, and which he pursued for many years. He also played in several bands/orchestras with the Armed Forces, having been drafted into the Army in 1944. But music would have to wait on the home front, as not only did he serve as a musician while overseas, he was also sent to fight with the 99th Division in The Battle of the Bulge, in which he would later say, as horrific as it was, he was very proud to have served. We will always honor & be proud his service as well.

Upon his return to San Pedro, he resumed playing trumpet with several Big Bands of the era. He married, had his first daughter, Susan, and pursued and completed his degree in accounting at Long Beach State (now the University of California at Long Beach.) Several years later, after his divorce, he relocated for a promotion with Shell Oil Company to New York, where he met and married Helene and was blessed with two more daughters, Karen and Diane.

Moving back to California in 1963 and working for Northrup Grumman (from which he retired in 1988) his love of the Palos Verdes Peninsula brought he and Helene to his treasured home in El Prado Estates. Bob will be remembered for his passion for music & blowing his horn, his wit, humor and twinkle in his eye, his bright intellect, couples Bridge, golf and love of a good time with family and friends... he was always up for a good party! He was preceded in death by youngest daughter, Diane Burris in 1984 and his beloved wife Helene in 2006. He is survived by daughters Susan Payne (Bill) & Karen Ritchie, grand-daughters Tessa Carson & Ashley Bochnowski (Ryan), great-grandchildren Lucas Borgerding and Ivy Bochnowski & Owen Bochnowski, and numerous nieces, nephews, and great-nieces & nephews. After cremation, a niche-side memorial service will be held at Park View Terrace (outside niches) at Green Hills Memorial Park, 12:30 pm on Friday, July 31, 2020.

Family and friends of Robert are invited to share their favorite photos, video memories and heart felt messages on his Tribute page on the Green Hills Mortuary Website.

Comments



“ I have so many wonderful memories of Uncle Robert especially when I was very young in the 40s at Granny’s house. I loved him very much, still do. He filled in early memories I was not able to remember of our beautiful mother as Jeannie and I were so young when we lost her. Uncle Robert was not only caring he was fun to be with. I wish I could have visited more often, we will miss him. Best Uncle ever Hugs to Karen, Soozie and Tessa and all who loved him.

Lisa, Gladly Ritchie Duplain - August 15, 2020 at 03:16 PM



“ And much love to Diane’s daughter Ashley and her family.

Lisa

lisa Gladly Ritchie Duplain - August 16, 2020 at 01:19 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert Ritchie.



July 30, 2020 at 12:31 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Bob Ritchie



Kristine Coats - July 26, 2020 at 05:36 PM



“ You guys really captured his essence in this Tribute-

I miss Uncle Bob and Helene so much, but I am comforted by ALL of the wonderful memories of your family. I loved growing up with the Ritchie family as part of our extended family- I have memories of you guys visiting us when we lived in New Jersey, and seeing you all when we visited California for the first time in the 60s.

My mom used to tell stories about when your mom and dad met when they all lived in New York, they went to plays, and concerts, and traveled together for years. They enjoyed Bridge, and partying. Holidays were always a big, festive, gathering. Your dad was the last of the bunch- the end of an era. But his memory will live on-
Warm Hugs and Loads of Love,
Kris (Mike, Katie and Coleman)

Kristine Coats - July 26, 2020 at 05:33 PM



“ This was a beautiful obituary and a tribute to a wonderful man. I will always have the memories that we shared and feel blessed that I was able to call him friend. Dee

Dee Espinosa - July 17, 2020 at 12:04 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Karen Ritchie - July 07, 2020 at 03:47 AM