



John Randall McDonnell

JUL 24, 1921 - JAN 8, 2011



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John Randall McDonnell

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John Randall McDonnell, Sr. died peacefully at home on Saturday, January 8, 2011 at age 89 after a brief illness. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Carol. "Mac" was born on July 24, 1921 in Oakland, CA to Charlotte and Louis McDonnell. He was the fourth of six children. He spent his boyhood outside Valley Ford, CA on various family ranches and was always a 'country boy' at heart. He was proud of his Irish heritage and the fact that each of his grandparents had immigrated to California from various parts of Ireland. In his teens, Mac moved with his family to Oakland, CA. He graduated from Oakland Technical High School in 1939. He married Carol Jean VanKeuren on July 31, 1942. During World War II, Mac served in the Army with the 535th Antiaircraft Battalion, and participated in the D-Day invasion. After the war, Mac and Carol moved to San Leandro settling in to raise their family in the Washington Manor neighborhood. He worked for the Del Monte Corp. in the Printing Division for over 30 years. During his retirement years, he took many out-of-state road trips visiting family and friends. He enjoyed reading, gardening and walks around the San Leandro Marina. His life always revolved around his family. He leaves four children, John McDonnell, Jr., Bonnie (Bill) Brewer, Nancy (Doyle) Garrett, and Charlotte (George) Wachtel. His eight grandchildren include Rachelle, Robert (Stacy), Janelle (Chuck), Cyndi, James (Joella), Ginger, Bud and Geory (Amy). Eleven great-grandchildren who called him "Great" are Nicole, Brittney, Kevin, Ian, Donovan, Jori Rae, Jaylee, C.J., Meadow, Paeton and Hayden. He will be dearly missed by all. Services will be held at: Chapel of the Chimes Julia Morgan Chapel 4499 Piedmont Ave. Oakland, CA www.lifemarkgroup.com Visitation: Thursday, January 13, 4-8 PM Services: Friday, January 14, 1 PM Memorial donations may be sent to: Angels Hospice 731 A St., Suite 207 Hayward, Ca 94541 Tomales Regional History Center P.O. Box 262, Tomales, Ca 4971



Tribute Wall

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JW

Janet Williamsen Haugh (Jack Williamsen) posted:

so sorry to hear about your lose. and may God comfort you in your time of loss.

January 19 at 7:46 AM

PW

Peter Wooten posted:

If Johnnie's zest for life, Bonnie's great compassion, Nancy's wisdom and Charlotte's loyalty are any indication of their father's influence on them, then it's not surprising that Uncle Randall was a great father and husband. Though I didn't speak with him very much, as a child, I was always happy to see Uncle Randall, along with his brothers and sister, at our many extended family gatherings. I will always associate him with the warm memories that sustain us through life.

January 14 at 7:46 AM

EH

Elizabeth Hilyer posted:

I had only met John on a very few occasions, I know he was a great person, I also know that he was very loved by his granddaughter Rachelle. I am so sorry for the great loss your family has experienced and pray that everyday it gets easier for you to accept your loss. Know that he is at peace now, and he is watching over all of you.

January 13 at 8:34 AM

KI

Kirk posted:

As a kid growing up I always looked up to my Uncle "Mac". I have many fond memories of being included on trips with him at the wheel of his "Woody" with his family. We'll miss our visits with him whenever we passed through the Bay Area. Kirk & Mona

January 12 at 1:13 PM

KI

Kimberly posted:

I hope everyone can rest at peace knowing he's in such a better place! What a wonderful person, he will surely be missed.

January 11 at 1:27 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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