



Harold Vanderwall

November 11, 1925 - February 14, 2014

Harold Arthur Vanderwall, 88, of Fullerton, California, went to be with his Lord on Friday morning, February 14, 2014. He was born November 11, 1925 in Muskegon, Michigan to the late Edward and Bertha (Hanekamp) Vanderwall and was also preceded in death by his brother Donald Vanderwall and sister, Stella Wagner.

Harold (Hal) graduated from Muskegon High School in 1942 and entered the U.S. Army in 1943, serving during World War II in the famed 10th Mountain Division as a PFC, where he was wounded in Italy by enemy fire. Military awards included Expert Infantry Badge, Combat Infantry Badge, three Battle Ribbons with 2 clusters, Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal and WWII Victory Medal.

Returning to Muskegon in 1945, Hal met his sweetheart, Wilma Shafer, and they were married on July 9, 1947. He attended Michigan State University (Class of 1952) and received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering; while there, he joined the ROTC and upon graduation, was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. During the Korean War, he served as an electronics officer with the 36th Fighter Bomber Squadron.

In 1954 the family moved to Pensacola, Florida where Hal was employed at the Pensacola Naval Air Station. In 1962, Hal moved his family to Fullerton, California and worked for NASA on such historic projects as the Apollo program and the Space Shuttle. He retired in 1980 after 25 years with various federal government agencies that included Pensacola Naval Air Station, Army

Ballistic Missile Agency and NASA.

Harold enjoyed traveling; working on home projects; snow and water skiing; and time with his family. He also loved to spend time at a local coffee shop having “coffee” with pals and reminiscing about the “old days.” Hal was a longtime attendee of the Fullerton Evangelical Free Church, along with his family.

Harold is survived by his wife of 66 years; son Dan Vanderwall (wife, Sue) of Brea, CA; son Paul of Fullerton, CA; daughter Jill Duke (husband, Tim) of Placentia, CA; brothers Elmer Vanderwall of Dayton, TN; and James Vanderwall (wife, Donna) of La Quinta, CA; and two grandchildren, Lacey and Jordan Duke.

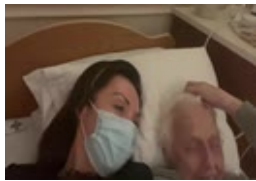
Share your memories of Harold on his on-line guest register at www.vanderwallfh.com. Harold was laid to rest in the Veterans Field of Honor at the Memory Garden Memorial Park in Brea, California.

The family was served by Vanderwall Funeral Home in Dayton, TN. (423) 775-2662

Tribute Wall

LS

“ Since her children didn't bother to file her obituary, I'll speak for her. Hal, your wife, Wilma, what is an extraordinary human being. The epitome of kindness, duty and morality. While you both are missed terribly, here are some great examples of what a loving, kind hearted, fun person Wilma Jean Vanderwall was.



Lacey Saraceno - March 28, 2023 at 02:46 PM

LL

“ Miss you every day



Lacey Lehn - June 23, 2020 at 12:24 PM

BB

“ He was a pleasant gentleman with a great smile and family. You will be missed.

Betty Baker

betty baker - February 19, 2014 at 11:20 AM

JV

“ Uncle Harold always made me laugh when we talked about things in his life like tripping a cop on Grand River with my Dad at MSU during the Snake Dance on Grand River in the 1950's. When I'd see him later and mention this story, he always said... "how'd you know that?" We also would talk about the neighborhood where they were raised in Muskegon (Dale Ave.). One phrase I learned when he was ready to leave Pentwater was.. "I'm about to boot cheeks if you don't hurry up." I will miss seeing him even if the visits were a long time apart. Someday we won't be constrained by time. I send my best to all my OC cousins and Aunt Wilma....I've been thinking about you all weekend. The Vanderwall's have lost two more precious members, but we'll all have a blessed reunion with the Lord. I think I can hear Aunt Stella's organ playing now...Peace Uncle Harold.

Jim Vanderwall

Jim Vanderwall - February 17, 2014 at 04:49 PM

BM

“ We will always remember his great smile, joking personality, and his love for his family!

God Bless you Uncle Harold.....we love you.

Prayers to my California Family.

Love

Beth & Bob Marine and Family

Beth Marine - February 17, 2014 at 02:28 PM



“ *Callie Belk lit a candle in memory of Harold Vanderwall*



Callie Belk - February 16, 2014 at 11:30 PM



“ *15 files added to the album Old and new of Harold*



Tom Vanderwall - February 16, 2014 at 05:33 PM



That's surprising the family would only pictures of Jordan with them.

Lacey Saraceno - March 30, 2023 at 11:53 PM

LS

Not surprising that would only include pictures of the grandson with Hal. If any of you have any inclination to do the right thing, I would invite you to look into the situation. His wife Wilma was taken out of her home against her will in 2021 to start remodeling it for a mystery human being (it was an open secret. Jill always wanted the house everyone including my grandparents, knew it.) but her children pretended like they didn't know who is going to move in after the renovations, or who is paying for them. (* that's not a red flag or anything.) my grandparents were part of the greatest generation, and they were amazing people, and they deserved better than how they were treated, and the lack of accountability is a appalling.*

Lacey Saraceno - March 30, 2023 at 11:57 PM

LS

They also wouldn't admit who is paying for the renovations, but in my opinion when somebody is doing the wrong thing in one area, you're doing the wrong thing in all areas, and that's unfortunate. The Lack of accountability is also unfortunate.

Lacey Saraceno - March 31, 2023 at 12:00 AM

LS

Finally, I can't begin to explain how traumatic it was to watch my grandmother and my special needs. Uncle be taken out of their home against their will to remodel it for somebody else only to place them in an assisted living .Finally, I can't begin to explain how traumatic it was to watch my grandmother and my special needs. Uncle be taken out of their home against their will to remodel it for somebody else only to place them in an assisted living facility; not in a two bedroom unit, but a studio apartment. I can't begin to fathom how upset and disappointed how would be to see his wife and son traded in this Calus way for the benefit of his, in my opinion, greedy children.

Lacey Saraceno - March 31, 2023 at 12:06 AM

LS

In my opinion, my family thinks if they gaslight other people hard enough and they're buying whatever narrative they're selling, but that narrative is accurate. I've watched them gaslight so many family members into selling them on the idea that everything's OK in my opinion when it's absolutely not. The truth hurts the truth painful but the truth is where we learn and grow into enable this kind of dysfunction and disassociation in my opinion doesn't help anybody.

Lacey Saraceno - March 31, 2023 at 01:29 AM