



Walter "Walt" LeVert Smithson

January 18, 1926 - June 28, 2020

Walter LeVert Smithson "Walt" was born to Beula Duke Smithson and T. Vernon Smithson on January 18, 1926 in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. Walt grew up, along with his five brothers, on the family dairy farm in the close-knit community of Mt. Juliet whose early influence on the Smithson boys instilled in them the integrity, devotion to family and fierce work ethic that were traits integral to the characters of all the Smithson boys throughout their lives. When Walt's eldest brother, W.T., moved to California each of the brothers, one by one, followed their big brother to California. As the Smithson boys married and built their careers, life separated them geographically but familial ties were not severed and they never failed to hop on a plane for a visit or to attend a major life event. Throughout their lives, the Smithson boys would return to their roots in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee, to visit extended family and old neighbors who always welcomed the Smithson family with open arms.

Walt was a veteran of the Coast Guard and a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley. After graduation from UC Berkeley, Walt had a successful career with Chevron, International, where he was the engineer responsible for marine lubricants in the shipping Industry which afforded him the opportunity to travel much of the world with many trips to the Netherlands, Europe, South America, and the far east.

Walt lived most of his adult life in San Francisco Bay area and moved to

Louisville, Kentucky, in 2016 to be with his only child, grandchildren, and their families. His family is thankful to have enjoyed the last years of his life uninterrupted and will cherish the memories of all the holidays and family get togethers we were able to share with him and that he enjoyed so much.

In addition to his parents, Walt is predeceased by his wife, Barbara, his five brothers, W.T., Bill, George, Henry, and Jim; and his two half-brothers, John and Carlton. With Walt's passing, all the brothers are together again and there is a quite a reunion in Heaven with many stories being bantered about and lots of laughter!

Walt is survived by his daughter, Glenda Smith (Art); his grandchildren, Bobby Smith (Tonya); Mandie Jacobs (Gene); and Matt Smith (Charolette); 5 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; his sister-in-law, Annie Smithson, and many nieces and nephews who were very dear to him.

Due to COVID-19 and many restrictions in place, the memorial service for Walt, held at Cave Hill Cemetery, will be private.

Cemetery Details

Cave Hill Cemetery

Tribute Wall



“*Uncle Walt was a generous, kind and loving man. As has been said, he shared his stories and memories of his life with us, all from a positive or humorous angle. He was a hardworking and successful engineer in his field but always retained his down-to-earth sensibilities while being able to travel to many continents. He was interested in many things, but especially the activities and milestones of his family. He will be missed by many, but his memory will be with us. Much condolences to Glenda and Art for taking care of Uncle Walt for his last few years, which fulfilled a longstanding desire to be close to his immediate family. Love, Linda (Smithson) Jentz*

Linda Jentz - July 05, 2020 at 01:24 PM

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“ *What a great and loving man Uncle Walt was. I can say that he loved and cared for so many. He always had a story to share, which was definitely a wonderful trait of the Smithson brothers. Stories about their time growing up and the challenges they faced. All exceeded in their careers with that hard work ethic.*

I loved how after Walt died (husband and named after Uncle Walt), Uncle Walt took it upon himself to care for Katie Rose and I in the most loving and thoughtful way and it will forever be remembered by both of us with love. We so enjoyed seeing him there in Louisville and I know Jack enjoyed meeting him as he'd heard all of the stories about Uncle Walt.

Blessings to you Glenda and Art and the kids for all you did to make your Father, Grandfather be loved and cared for up until the last breath. He will be missed.

Love Pat Smithson, Katie Rose and Jack Huggins

Pat Smithson - July 02, 2020 at 07:43 AM