

6H-R
4-20-2020

Arthur E. Strawser

Arthur E. Strawser, 93, of Grinnell and formerly of San Diego, California, died on April 13, 2020, at Windsor Manor in Grinnell.

A Celebration of Life service is pending at a later date.

Burial will be held at the El Camino Memorial Park Cemetery in San Diego, California.

Memorial contributions may be designated to the Alzheimer's Association in Art's memory.

Art was born on October 24, 1926, in Numa, Iowa, the son of Ira Cleveland and Mary Ellen Schafer Strawser. One of five siblings, three brothers and one sister, he was raised in Numa and was a 1946 graduate of Numa High School. While in high school, he was employed as a school bus driver and was also a star basketball player; his team made it to the state championships his senior year.

After graduating high school, he moved to Grinnell and met the love of his life, Darlene Southern, at the Maytag Company, where they worked together for two years. On December 21, 1950, they were united in marriage in Grinnell, and soon after they moved to San Diego. They both said it was for the sunshine!

Art joined the United States Navy in August of 1950 and served nearly four years as Aviation Electrician's Mate Airman on the USS Sicily and told many stories of his time in the war. He was awarded the Navy Good Conduct Medal, Korean Service Medal, United Nations Korean Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal. He was a very proud United States Veteran.

Art and Darlene bought one of the very first homes that were built in Allied Gardens in San Diego and the home is still in the family name. He began work at General Dynamic (Convair), where he had a long career of 35½ years as an electrician. They raised three children together, Susan Jill Kaczynski (spouse, Stephen), Scott Lee Strawser (spouse, Becky), and Sandra Alosio Strawser. His wife died in 1997.

In 2000, he moved to Lake San Marcos with his companion, Dorothy Bruening, where they lived for nine years.

Upon turning 80, he decided that he wanted to move back to his roots in Iowa and spend more time with his brothers and sister, and nieces and nephews. He wanted to live a simpler lifestyle with less traffic. He moved to the Mayflower Community and was very involved in daily activities and going on extended trips with the Mayflower group. He loved to go out for meals at both the Frontier and A & M Cafes. His families' last big outing was to celebrate his 90th birthday in style at Mayflower with over 100 people in attendance. He was loved by so many.

Art loved to travel and had been to many places including Alaska and Hawaii, two of his favorite spots. He loved to work on puzzles, was an avid reader, enjoyed the stock market and playing on his computer later in his life. He was very active in his community at the Mayflower and later at Windsor Manor.

He had seven grandchildren, Jason (Angela) Bailey Strawser, Justin Rudd Strawser, Nicholas Alosio, Emalee Kaczynski, Carlee Kaczynski, Michael Alosio, and Rylee Kaczynski; and two great-grandchildren, Justine Markin Bailey and Landen Bailey. He was very involved in all their lives. He also enjoyed his many visits with his great nephews, Zane and Ty Strawser, and other family members in Iowa. He loved to show off his kids when they visited from California.

Art is preceded in death by his parents, Ira and Mary Ellen; two brothers, Cleo and George; his youngest daughter, Sandra (1991); his beloved wife, Darlene (1997); and his companion, Dorothy (2017).



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Memorial contributions may be designated to the family of Art Strawser and mailed in c/o Smith Funeral Home, 1103 Broad Street, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

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