



## John G. Holmes

July 7, 1921 - October 13, 2020

John Gunnard Holmes was born July 6 and 7, 1921 at the Alhambra “Horsebital.” He had two birthdays because his mom and the birth certificate disagreed, which he expected both to be celebrated each year. During his life he valued family, church and job. He grew up in a strong family and church. There he met and courted the love of his life, Anna Marie Nelson, a daughter of the minister. He described himself as a daredevil, but Anna had to trick him into holding hands for the first time. Graduated Mark Keppel High School, and attended Pasadena Junior College. During WW2 he enlisted in the Navy as a pilot, following his two older brothers, also pilots. When he completed training, he married his high school sweetheart, a marriage which lasted 76 years They had planned a wedding at home, but Anna was told by friends that he could be ordered out of reach, so she took the train to Texas where he was ending his training. John was given orders to remain in Corpus Christi, Texas, when mom married and joined him in 1944. He flew PBY flying boats and had the most dangerous job of being a flight instructor. During this time his first son, John Kenray, was born, given a middle name that honored his two older brothers who flew more than 100 combat missions between them. After the war he worked briefly for the railroad, but soon began a lifelong career in the California Department of Motor Vehicles. He started as an assistant in a two man roving office and ended up many years and a six moves later on the Director’s cabinet as Chief of Compliance. He was broadly recognized for his supervisory and problem solving skills. During this time he was a devoted

father and church member. He and Anna Marie raised three children keeping the family together and happy through the moves all over the state. When the kids were old enough he took them camping in the summer (from Burney Falls to Death Valley and all points in between) and fishing, water skiing and kept them involved in church and family. When he retired, he and Anna bought a travel trailer and lived on the road for most of the year, summers in Oregon, winters in Arizona, and took extensive trips with a church group of retired friends. ;He often parked his trailer in his son Lawrence Holmes' back yard on the transition from north to south. John became known to his great grandchildren as "Grandpa Coconut Head," a name he gave to them which illustrates his sense of humor so many remember him by. After about a decade he settled in Corvallis Oregon near daughter Jeanne Holmes/Swanson and her family. He loved his family dearly, their victories in life brought him great happiness, their trials and concerns troubled him. When independent living became difficult, John and Anna Marie moved to The Regent, a senior living facility, where dad flourished fixing everyone's computers, phones, and televisions. It was an extension of the skills in people handling and problem solving. He was an Ambassador for new arrivals and commissioner of Bean Bag Baseball, Jigsaw puzzles, resident convenient store and keeper of the birds. In the last nine months he and Anna moved to Timberhill Assisted Living, where they received the best of loving care. His last charitable act was to distribute his stimulus check to a table of charities. He was a gentle, kind and loving husband, full of life and good humor, father, grand father, great grandfather and great great grandfather. He left a path of people that loved and appreciated his caring and supporting ways. His children, grandchildren and great grandchildren will dance his memories with joy in their hearts, and live by the lessons he gave.

# Tribute Wall

JP

“ 27 files added to the album *Memories Album*



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**Jeanne Pollard** - November 03, 2020 at 06:05 PM

JB

“ *Joann Benesh*

*I resided for a few months (twice) at the Regent. John helped me with an iPad and a TV. I sat with John and AnnaMarie at lunch some days. I enjoyed jigsaw puzzles and the conversations we had. I couldn't believe how sharp he was. He will be missed.*

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**JOANN BENESH** - October 23, 2020 at 06:42 PM



“ Susan Oase

*He was a wonderful man and I'm so glad that we had the honor to know him. I think of him often when I look at the frame around one of our stained glass pieces that he helped Kit make many years ago. 💕💕*

Anita Handley

*He truly was 'one in a million' I am so very sorry for your precious loss. Tom and I were truly blessed by his love and friendship. Sending your hugs and prayers at your time of loss and may God comfort you and the family*

Chuck Cordes

*He was one of the finest men and best church members I have ever known. So sorry for our loss. Love Chuck and Stella*

Debra Brady

*I'm so sorry for your loss. Thank you for sharing about your dad's long, productive & honorable life. I remember how much the Isleton church folks enjoyed having your parents as a virtual part of their congregation. May you sense God's comfort.*

Elise Patty

*Sorry to hear this news! Uncle John was a sweet man*

Barbara Werre

*I am so sorry I was his Neighbor and friend since I was a young girl on Neer Ave he will be greatly missed*

Pam Ruzek

*I'm so so sorry!!! Bless his heart. Thoughts and prayers going your way. John, you will be missed.*

Suzannah Doyle

*Sending love and hugs to all, with fond memories of John's bright spirit. 💕💕💕*

*Karen Herold*

*Oh no. I am so sorry. He was a wonderful man.*

*A.J. VanDyken McCann*

*I am so sad to hear this but know he had a beautiful life surrounded by those who loved him and whom he loved*

*Ann Poling Hawkins*

*What a great guy! One of my all time favorites.*

*William Pelto*

*Sending condolences to you, to Anna Marie, and to your family. John was a great friend of my mother Joan Pelto at The Regent. He lived with curiosity and joy, and he shared that generously with others.*

*Pat Ward*

*We were all lucky to have Papa Holmes in our lives.*

*Greg Smith*

*John was a great , kind , smart , funny and wonderful friend and man.*

*Caroline Zarwoski*

*He was such a gift to this world and to all of us privileged to know him. His smile, his caring heart, and active faith will live on in all of us. Holding all if the family in prayer as you grieve a soul who lived a full and gracious life.*

*Neils J. Neilsen*

*He was quite a guy. Well done, John. Well done indeed.*

*Jeana Aho*

*He was always so funny! I will miss that sweet man! I met him at The Regent.. I cook there. I told home I have never got an order for a over medium egg with a broken yoke!😭 But that I was not about to argue with someone who was as old as he was! I truly will miss*

*him... Sorry for your families loss.. he was one amazing person I will never forget! 🙏❤️*

*Jane Stoltz*

*John, I love you. What a warm, sweet presence you've been in my life. We'll see you on the other side.*

*Bart Eleveld*

*A kind soul, always a twinkle in his eye or a joke on his lips. He will be missed.*

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October 21, 2020 at 06:08 PM