

Mount Diablo Branch 8 Obituary Notices

The Membership Secretary in coordination with the Sunshine Committee will publish notices of the death of a Branch member as that information becomes known. Services, if any, will be listed in this document and email notices of the services will be made to the membership. A member's date of death, date of induction into Branch 8, city of residence, partner, Branch roles and interests will be listed.

Obituary notices will be listed by date of death and will remain on the Branch website for the one calendar year.

SIR Marvin Kretiz

December 25, 1924- January 22, 2020



Kretiz, Marvin MD-002

Marvin Henry Kretiz

December 25, 1924 – January 22, 2020

Walnut Creek

Marv passed away peacefully in the presence of his family at the age of 95. Marv was born in Minneapolis Minnesota. He graduated from Roosevelt High School and entered the Navy in 1943. While in the Navy he was sent to the University of Wisconsin where he met his wife to be, Ruth. During [World War II](#), Marv served on the USS Cincinnati whose mission was convoy duty in the North Atlantic where they tracked the Nazi Wolf-Pack U-Boats and participated in the invasion of Southern France. He was discharged in 1946 and then married Ruth.

Marv attended Macalester College in St. Paul where he had the honor to represent the State of Minnesota at the National Association of Manufacturers, 57th Annual Congress in New York. In 1954 he graduated with a BS in Economics and went on to work for Montgomery Ward's Mail Order Division in St. Paul. In 1958 he was promoted and transferred to Oakland California. Marv finished his career at Wards as the Regional Catalog Sales Manager, in charge of 13 District Managers, 220 stores, in the 7 western states. He retired in 1986 when Wards shuttered its Mail Order operation.

He and Ruth lived in Walnut Creek for over 53 years. They loved to travel and golf. Marv was actively involved with the Sons In Retirement for some 30 years progressing through the chairs of Little SIR, Big SIR, Treasurer, and Director. He was honored by being made a lifetime member for his service and 10 years later, Senior Life Time member.

Marv lead the ongoing activities for the Seniors group at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. He loved his family, attending all of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren's sports cheering them on as their biggest fan.

He was predeceased by his wife Ruth of 63 years, his siblings John, Clark, Beverly, and Muriel; He is survived by his son Bill (Bonnie); daughter Cheryl Syrovatka (Gregg); and brother Richard; as well as grandchildren; Kevin; Heidi Klipp (Keegan); Randy Syrovatka (Aimee), great-grandsons Brycen & Cooper; Brittany Olson (Michael), great-grandchildren Addison & Zachary; Nick Syrovatka (Cassey) and great-granddaughter Savannah and so many dear friends. He will be dearly missed and always in our hearts. His Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 am on Thursday, February 6, 2020 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1092 Alberta Way, Concord California.

A private graveside service with Military honors will be held at Oakmont Memorial Park in Lafayette California.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be given to Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Marv's memory.

Field	Description
Inducted	07/02/1987
Partner	Trudy Huennighaus
Residence	Walnut Creek
Deceased	1/22/2020
Services	2/05/2020, Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Role	Director Big SIR Little SIR) Treasurer Senior HLM
Interests	Golf 18 Hole Travel Fishing

SIR Ray Nummi

September 1, 1920-March 1, 2020



Nummi, Ray MD-007

Field	Description
Inducted	11/02/1994
Partner	n/a
Residence	Pleasant Hill
Deceased	03/01/2020
Service	n/a
Interests	Cribbage Golf Poker Fishing

SIR Ed Cohn

March 22, 1928-March 27, 2020



Field	Description
Inducted	05/10/2010
Partner	Era Cohn
Residence	Walnut Creek
Deceased	03/27/2020
Service	https://www.gatheringus.com/memorial/edward-cohn/2860
Roles	MRC Member Recruitment Member

	Speaker Committee
Interests	Bocce Book Exchange Sirs in the Kitchen SUMS Wine

Ed Cohn – In his own words, about 2015

Dear Sirs:

My name is Ed Cohn and I have been a member of SIR for around five years. I come from a few career changes but my most recent and that which I retired from, was an event and meeting planner in a company that I had called “Functions International”.

I came from Chicago but weather induced me to move to California and I ended up in the Bay Area and Walnut Creek for the past 50 plus years. After the Navy as a medical corpsman, I did the GI Bill at U of Illinois, married and had three great children that are my joy. I lost one, my eldest Jeff to cancer. Hardest thing I ever had to endure.

My hobbies are tennis, bridge, writing (I wrote one book that I am quite proud of). And of course, would you believe. Bullfighting!

My interests are; tennis, fine dining, Wine, good stimulating dialogue with friends, world affairs, music, both classical and jazz, and writing. I have written one book that sold well, and I have started another.

As for my SIR activity, I am chairman of Dine in 2, a participant of SIRS in the kitchen. The write your own biography, which motivated me to have my book (see last paragraph) published. Also I am on the Speakers committee, wine tasting group, picnic etc.

I find SIR to be a wonderful adjunct to a very active life and highly recommend it to all seniors.

“GITANO.....The Best is Yet to Come!”

It is an autobiography of my adventurous life consisting of my world travel, and many stories of people that I have met along the way. I include Bullfighting and my adventures that it involves. This is a fun reading and I am proud of the way it turned out.

The first printing was sold out!

SIR Monte Allen

April 15, 1931-April 2, 2020



Monte Allen

Field	Description
Inducted	04/12/1999
Partner	Janet Allen
Residence	Pacheco
Deceased	04/02/2020
Service	n/a

SIR Jerry Gaya

September 14, 1946- April 13, 2020



Jerry Gaya

Field	Description
Inducted	5/08/2017
Partner	Fay
Residence	Concord
Deceased	04/13/2020
Service	n/a
Interests	Car Enthusiasts Wood Carving Computers Fishing Photography

SIR George Benkly

March 8, 1927- April 14, 2020



George Benkly

George J. Benkly

March 8, 1927 - April 14, 2020

Resident of Walnut Creek, CA.

George J. Benkly, a resident of Walnut Creek for over 50 years, died on April 14, 2020.

He was born on March 8, 1927 in Yonkers, New York to Anna and G. Nickolas Benkly. His father was European Representative for Carrier Corporation and the family was transferred to Paris, France and returned to the U.S. in 1930 for the birth of George's sister Doris.

George is survived by Jody, his wife of sixty years. They had two much loved sons, Michael who died 12 years ago, (Chris) and Steve (Brenda). George and Jody have three Wonderful grandchildren; Jason, Alexis and Jeremy and one two year old great granddaughter who is a bundle of energy and love.

At the age of seventeen, George joined the U.S. Air Corp. Reserve and they sent him to Rutgers University for Engineering studies. Later he received his degrees in Chemical Engineering and Business Management from Siena Jesuit College in Loudonville, New York.

The family moved to California and George became a Bechtel Corporation Engineer in San Francisco for 25 years. He was head of Bechtel's Heat Exchanger Department and was the founding member of the Bay Area Heat Transfer Club and also the Houston Texas Heat Transfer Club. The family joke was mom (Jody) never figured out exactly what a heat exchanger was. George was a good soul who believed people were basically decent, kind and caring. He seemed to like and be concerned for everyone and this was

especially evident as he was suffering through his own battle with cancer. His family is trying to follow his example of kindness.

He was in Sirs, Branch Eight. He enjoyed the friends, meetings, and activities. In earlier years he enjoyed playing golf with the group; but in recent years he enjoyed the poker groups and looked forward to poker games and friendly players. They played for the "High Stakes" of nickels, dimes, and quarters. These "High Rollers" had a good time and he enjoyed the many friendships. George believed in our community and their desire for an Arts Center. Like so many citizens he worked for and contributed to the creation of the Arts Center. He remembered the excitement when the Leshner Center for the Arts became a reality. For 25 years, George, Jody and two longtime friends had season tickets for the plays, musicals, etc. That was one activity he was able to continue and he enjoyed going to the Leshner and then to an early dinner with friends. Those were comforting and good memories for him.

When he was younger, he was a busy member of the Walnut Creek Methodist Church. He always remembered the loving and caring congregation.

George wanted his ashes to be scattered where our son Michael's are scattered. His wishes will be respected, and we believe their souls will be together in God's home.

Field	Description
Inducted	08/02/1999
Partner	Jody
Residence	Walnut Creek
Deceased	04/14/2020
Service	n/a
Interests	Dart and Pool Golf 9 Hole Poker

SIR Clark Morehouse

December 17, 1922- May 17, 2020



Clark Morehouse

Field	Description
Inducted	03/02/2001
Partner	
Residence	Walnut Creek
Deceased	5/17/2020
Service	n/a
Interests	Bocce Ball Open Play Dine Out Single SIRS Dominoes

SIR Jim Walters

April 11, 1929- May 23, 2020



Jim Walters

Field	Description
Inducted	10/09/2017
Partner	Blanche
Residence	Walnut Creek
Deceased	May 23, 2020
Service	n/a
Interests	Golf, Nine hole

SIR George Heuga

October 15, 1940- August 5, 2020



George Rene Heuga

October 15, 1940 - August 5, 2020

Resident of Walnut Creek, CA

George Rene Heuga, our beloved husband, father and friend, passed away peacefully at his home on Wednesday, August 5, 2020. George was a proud and extremely hard-working man, with an endless list of projects underway at all times. He had a huge heart and loved his family deeply. George was an excellent listener; his way was to be quiet and let others around him speak. But he could also confidently lead a conversation with a group of any size, including a classroom of students in his many teaching roles over the years. He was very generous, fair, and accepting of others.

George was born and raised in San Francisco. He loved the City and enjoyed sharing San Francisco stories to anyone who would listen, including his experiences working at Playland amusement park early in his college years. After graduating from George Washington High School in 1958, he attended City College of San Francisco and then San Francisco State University, where he earned a BA in Radio and Television Broadcasting and pursued a master's degree in Audio/Visual Media & Broadcasting Operations. After college, George held a few jobs in San Francisco in the media and broadcasting field, including as a cameraman at KQED and Technical Director at Far West Laboratory for Educational Research and Development. His big break came in 1974 when he started his career at UC Berkeley, where he worked for 31 years as a lead A/V Media Consultant. During retirement, George dedicated himself to numerous volunteer roles -- including as a driving instructor through

AARP, a senior tutor at the Byron Boys Ranch, and a technician for the Rossmoor Computer Club -- and participated in Sons in Retirement and the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society. In addition to family, George's passions included listening to music (his favorites were big band and jazz), traveling, photography, camping, swimming, gambling, and dancing.

George married his dear wife in 1967 and was a caring and devoted husband for 53 years. He was a devout Catholic who never missed a Sunday Mass, and who was enthusiastically involved in his churches over the years, including St. Bonaventure's in Concord and St. John Vianney in Walnut Creek. George is survived by his wife, Maureen; five children: Michelle O'Connell, Michael Heuga (Julie Cochrane), Danielle Wilson (Larry Wilson), Nicole Heuga (Brian Morrissey), and Julieann Pettitt (Steve Pettitt); and six grandchildren: Amber, James, Ian, Shane, and Corinne O'Connell, and Abigail Heuga. George will be dearly missed. He loved his family and friends and we all loved him.

Due to pandemic restrictions, a small, private Funeral Mass will be held at Queen of Heaven Cemetery & Funeral Center in Lafayette, California, George's final resting place. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to one of his favorite charities, the Hanna Boys Center (<https://www.hannacenter.org/>).

Field	Description
Inducted	3/12/2012
Partner	Maureen Heuga
Residence	Walnut Creek
Deceased	8/05/2020
Service	N/A
Roles	Audio Support, Monthly Luncheon
Interests	Poker Digital Photography Computers and Technology Wine Tasting/Cellar Fillers