



Harry William Duchene

January 22, 1928 - February 27, 2015

Harry W. Duchene

1928 - 2015

Harry Duchene was called back to his Lord on Friday, February 27, 2015 in Salt Lake City, UT.

Harry was born in Chicago IL on January 22, 1928 to Harry Joseph and Anna Ester Green Duchene. He grew up in the Chicago area, then served in the US Coast Guard from 1946 to 1949, especially in the Philippines. Graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in Electrical Engineering in 1953.

Harry met, then married the Love of his life, Leona Quasny on April 24, 1954 in Chicago, IL, raising a family of 3 boys and 3 girls who he dearly loved and supported his whole life. He enjoyed spending as much time as possible with them, and his grandchildren. Harry had a long, successful career with Sperry, starting in New York, moving with the company several times. Some of his most notable projects were with the Apollo Space Mission, the earliest drones, 'LAMPS', as well as other vital military projects. Harry was able to enjoy many years in retirement (from Unisys) with Lee: building a dream home in Payson AZ, traveling the world for fun and traveling to visit family and friends. Later, at Olympus Senior Center he made many friends and worked to improve his Bridge game.

Survived by children: Leslie J (Wendy) Duchene (WA), Dia Smith, Scott Duchene, (SLC) and Gina A. Duchene (NM). Seven grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Brothers Eugene and Alfred Duchene and sister Anna Mae Leahey. Preceded in death by his wife, Leona G., son Jeffrey and daughters Denise and Valerie Powell.

Special thanks to Tyson and Leta Howard for their tireless efforts for Grandpa these past few months.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at St.

Vincent DePaul Catholic Church, 1375 E Spring Lane, Salt Lake City, UT

In lieu of flowers, please contribute to a charity of your choice.

Interment in Rib Lake, WI

Comments



“ Our deepest condolences on Uncle Harry's passing. Our prayers and thoughts are with all during this difficult time.

Love, Linda (Leahey) & Tim Roberts
Cary, IL

Linda Roberts - March 10, 2015 at 05:22 PM



“ My love goes out to Dia Smith (Fringe). Sorry for your loss. Hang in there, Love Fringe.

Ken Foote - March 06, 2015 at 11:46 AM



“ Sending love and prayers your way at this difficult time... Love you Dea

Nonnie Choy - March 05, 2015 at 07:05 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Spencer Duchene - March 05, 2015 at 11:53 AM



“ From Gene Duchene (Brother of Harry Duchene)

Our family was born and raised on the west side of Chicago. Harry was born in 1928 the first child of Harry and Anna Duchene. Gene was born in 1930 followed by Anna Mae and Al.

Our Mom and Dad started their family at the beginning of the Great Depression. Times were tough and everyone was poor but we all managed. My Dad was laid off from his job with the railroad and took any job he could get to put food on the table and pay the rent. We never felt poor or went hungry. Our mother would make delicious dinners with anything that was available and we enjoyed them and each

other!

Harry and I went to the same schools although he was 2 years ahead of me. My brother was very smart and studied a lot and got good grades, Harry went Austin High School and was on the Wrestling team. Harry was determined to somehow go to college and better himself.

After High School Harry joined the Coast Guard to become eligible for the GI Bill, the only way he could afford to pay for college. In 1946 he was sent to the Philippines on the Island of Luzon. There was still a lot of military action going on there and we all worried about him and his safety. While in the Philippines, Harry worked as a specialist on a highly secret tracking device called Loran, a technology we now know as GPS.

When Harry finished his Military duty he enrolled in University of Idaho in Moscow Idaho and finished up his degree at the University of Washington as an Electrical Engineer with honors. He was very intelligent.

He then went to work with a company called Sperry Gyro and moved to Rockville, Maryland. Our family once went all the way out there to visit him there and we had a great time with our brother. He took me crab fishing and after catching several dozen he invited some of his friends over and we cooked them and cracked them open with a hammer. I can still remember how great they tasted!

Sperry Gyro relocated to Salt Lake City and Harry spent the rest of his working life with them. He worked on many Top Secret Military projects and had the highest security clearance possible.

Harry married Leona Quasny and together they had 7 children. Their first born Denise tragically died just a few months after from SIDS. Harry and Leona also sadly lost three other adult children.

Harry and I used to get together for memorable deer hunting trips in the beautiful Wasatch Mountains. We also once went on a memorable 9 day fishing trip and we caught a lot of fish.

Harry and Leona moved to Washington State in the later years and in 2005 Leona passed away. Harry moved back to SLC and got much involved in playing Bridge. Like all things he took up, Harry was very good at it. I learned that when talking to Harry on the phone it was best not to mention Bridge as the rest of the conversation was pretty one way, with Harry breathlessly expounding on the finer points of Bridge.

Harry was a very brave man. My wife Marie and I talked to him the day before he passed and he was very clear and understood what was going on. He said he was not afraid and that he was going home, that all his affairs were in order and he believed he would pass that night. And Harry was true to his word and died later that night.

I know he is in a better place now and we will miss him a lot, we loved him.

His loving brother Gene

Gene Duchene - March 04, 2015 at 10:16 PM



“ Thinking of you all with sympathy and caring thoughts. I'm sure my mom was there to greet your dad and has already introduced him to everyone!
Love, Dave, Debbie, Devin and Derek King
(Fayetteville, GA)

Debbie King - March 04, 2015 at 06:10 PM



“ I really enjoyed the trip we made to Australia with the Road Scholar group in September of last year. I hope you would be around for are New zealand trip we plan for 2015. I'll miss you and never forget our trip to Australia and you will also in my prays.

Young Brouther Al

Alfred Duchene - March 04, 2015 at 01:07 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Harry Photos & Videos



Alfred Duchene - March 04, 2015 at 12:56 PM