



William Alfred Stewart

September 19, 1930 - January 1, 2021

William Alfred Stewart was born September 19, 1930 to Horace and Flossie Stewart, the youngest of 5 children, in Atwood, Kansas. When he was 7 years old, his family moved to Richmond, California; then later to Manteca where he graduated from High School. After graduation, he joined the California National Guard at Stockton and proudly served his country from 1950-1956.

In 1953 he met the love of his life, Helen Pankratz. They were married in Turlock and built their first home there in 1955. They were blessed with Celebrating 65 years of marriage this past year.

Bill began his produce career in Turlock in 1956, also that year his first son Jim was born. In 1957, he accepted a job at Pacific Fruit & Produce Company. In 1958 he was promoted to Branch Manager and moved to Oxnard. There Sheri was born, and four years later second son John followed. Another promotion in 1965 brought the family to Kingsburg, and he later became Western Division Manager. In 1980 a new company WES PAK was formed where he was President and Director until 2000. It was gratifying to him to have both sons work with him in this company. He was well respected because of his integrity, honesty, generosity, humor and friendly personality that led to many lifelong relationships. In 2000 he was honored with a Canadian award that had never been given to a non-Canadian for outstanding contribution to the Canadian Produce Marketing Association. He also enjoyed serving 20 years on the Fresno State Ag Governing Board.

A Gold Seal award from the Kingsburg Chamber of Commerce in 2009 was presented to him for outstanding citizenship and involvement in the community which he generously supported and his devoted time.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church, serving as a Deacon on the Finance Board for many years. He accepted the Lord Jesus as a child, was baptized and lived his life following Christ. He was kind, loving, hospitable and always welcoming and accepting of others.

Bill and Helen loved to travel in their personal, as well as business life, which took them all over the world. Early years involved camping with the family and dear friends. Later years many memorable trips to Hawaii were a favorite for them.

Bill is survived by his wife Helen; his children and their spouses, James and Terri Stewart, Sheri and Jeff Baker, John and Frances Stewart; his grandchildren and their spouses, Joseph and Sophie Stewart, Samuel and Mariah Stewart, Janelle Baker, Matthew and Ashley Baker, Daniel and Justine Baker, Hannah Stewart, Natalie Stewart, Alexa Stewart, step-grandchildren Henry Sosa, Andrew Sosa; great grandchildren, Miles Stewart, Pennie Baker, Tobin Baker, Reed Baker, Annie Baker, and Luke Baker.

Funeral services will be held privately.

In lieu of flowers donation may be made to the First Baptist Church, 1615 Draper Street, Kingsburg, CA 93631 or KCAPS, 1139 Draper Street, Kingsburg, CA 93631

Services have been entrusted to Salser & Dillard Creighton Chapel. Memorial Tributes and condolences may be offered by logging onto www.salseranddillard.com.

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Salser & Dillard Creighton Chapel - January 11, 2021 at 04:25 PM



“ A webcast video has been added.



Salser & Dillard Creighton Chapel - January 07, 2021 at 12:36 PM



“ Bill is a MAN I have admired all my life. Humble, hospitable, exuded joy happiness and peace in his life. A smile I wanted to be around. A man with a reputation for honesty and trustworthiness. A-man who always loved God first, his family second and his work third. I really look forward to glorifying God in heaven with Bill. Thanks for your earthly example an influence on my life. David Jackson

david Jackson - January 14, 2021 at 09:18 PM



“ Milton and Edith enjoyed so much knowing you at the Baptist Church and dad talked about you a lot, his favorites.

Gene and I then lated loved to see you in Reedley at the Birthday event at least once a year! Everything has changed so fast. Loving thoughts to you Helen and God will bless his memory.

Hazel and Gene Griffith

Hazel Griffith - March 10, 2021 at 11:15 AM



“ My dear friend Bill Stewart... I want to thank you for your kind, soft, & uplifting friendship. You always would bring a joyful tug to my heart in our conversations before & after Sunday School. I'll always treasure these times of wonderful memories all the days of my life. It has been such a pleasure & honor to know you. Even though you generously & softly declined signing up & joining us on "One Last Tour with Honor" to Washington DC with Central Valley Honor Flight, I think of you silently & praise you on each flight we go on with all our hero veterans. You are there with me. And I will continue doing so once we begin our flights again. You are a Hero to me... as a veteran who selflessly gave of himself so others would feel safe, protected, & experience freedom! Thank you William Stewart! You are a Hero to me... as a solid child of God who always demonstrated the character of a true Christian. Thank you God for sharing with me... with so many others... your gentle servant, Bill Stewart.

I pray for peace, comfort, support, but most of all... LOVE to all the family & friends of this exquisite man. Onward to Post Everlasting my friend where the joys of Heaven surround you. I will look for you at the gate one day & again see your glorious smile. So long my friend!

Janet Klassen, Goodreau

Janet Klassen, Goodreau - January 12, 2021 at 05:23 PM



“ Betty Bodin Kennedy Viorel purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William Alfred Stewart.



Betty Bodin Kennedy Viorel - January 11, 2021 at 06:55 PM



“ Bill Stewart is such a special person it would be hard to narrow it down to a few sentences. I know in my heart he's celebrating with his Savior in heaven along with so many Godly saints who were waiting for him. I am so grateful for his (and Helen's) loving influence in the old guys life (or as Helen would say, the old person). You'll never know how much influence your steady love and kindness had on this this family. Thank you so very much.

Sara staunton - January 09, 2021 at 09:45 PM



“ Uncle Bill was a warm, generous, fun-loving inspiration to us all. He frequently had a twinkle in his eye as he talked about people, projects and places that he loved. He cherished family and times together. His faith was integral to his life, and evident in his kind spirit, integrity, compassion and strength. We will miss him!

Our prayers are with all of his loved ones as they mourn his loss. May they ultimately know the joy of having him in each of their lives -- and find peace in knowing that he is now rejoicing in heaven with his Lord and Savior.

With much love -
Laura Pankratz Ambrose and Jeff Ambrose

Laura Ambrose - January 08, 2021 at 02:39 PM