

Harold David Rueb (1939-2009)

Harold David Rueb Nov. 29, 1939~Aug. 2, 2009 40-year Martinez Resident On Sunday August 2nd, Dave Rueb passed away peacefully with his loving family by his side following a battle with a serious illness. Dave is survived by his loving wife of 44 years, Leslie, his three sons, Greg, Brent and Mark, daughters-in-law, Sharon and Lynn, and his six grandchildren: Lauren, Justin, Catherine, Griffin, Will and Mia. Dave Rueb was born to Harold (Dutch) and Lorraine Rueb in Fremont, Nebraska and raised near Pasadena, CA. In his youth, he loved playing baseball and boy scouting, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. He graduated from Rosemead High School ('57) and then obtained his Architectural Engineering Degree at Cal Poly - San Luis Obispo ('61). While in college, he was a member of Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity. Upon graduation, he served our country as a Captain of the Civil Engineering Squadron in the U.S. Air Force ('62-'68). Dave was stationed at Duluth AFB in Minnesota and Elmendorf AFB in Anchorage, Alaska. While in the service, Dave was truly blessed to meet the woman of his dreams, Leslie Marie Olson. They met in 1963 at The Officer's Club while Dave was stationed in Duluth. After a two-year courtship, they were married in Minnesota. Together they blazed a trail to Alaska while Dave continued to serve in the Air Force. Upon honorable discharge, they moved to Berkeley so Dave could pursue his Master's Degree in Structural Engineering at UC Berkeley ('69). In 1970, they moved to Martinez and raised their three boys. They lived in Martinez until his passing. Dave was a structural engineer for 40 years, 37 years as the owner of H.D. Rueb Structural Engineer. Dave was an innovative and practical designer who prided himself on getting the job done on time. Over the course of his career, Dave engineered over 5,000 buildings in 10 states, including churches, public schools, office buildings, retirement centers, country clubs, shopping centers, commercial buildings, medical buildings and private residences. A few examples of his projects include: Alhambra High School, Longs Drug Stores and the prison retrofit at Alcatraz Island. His son, Mark, also a structural engineer, will ensure Dave's legacy survives by continuing to run the business. Dave loved spending time with his family, growing his fiery chili peppers, tending his vineyards and making wine. He also enjoyed traveling, music, camping and building unique collections. During his lifetime, he amassed one of the largest privately held collections of slide rules in the world and an eclectic collection of cork screws. Dave possessed an amazing ability to bring happiness to all around him. He was personable, social, generous, loyal and loved to have a good time. Dave was a unique man, and like his favorite singer, Frank Sinatra, he loved to do things "my way". He provided numerous donations to charitable organizations throughout Martinez and Contra Costa County. His sense of humor and spirit blessed and enriched everyone he had contact with throughout his incredible life. Graveside services will be held at 3pm on Saturday August 8th at Oakmont Memorial Park, 2099 Reliez Valley Road, Lafayette, to be followed by a celebration of his life at the Rueb residence in Martinez. Contributions in Dave's memory can be made to the Boys and Girls Club in Martinez.