

W. Henry Harris, Jr. Mortgage finance vice president, WWII and Korea veteran, fisherman, family man

W. Henry Harris, Jr., who spent more than 30 years in Claremont with his family before retiring to Mira Loma, died on December 24, 2011 after a short period with pneumonia. Age 97, Mr. Harris died at the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial VA Medical Center in Loma Linda on Christmas Eve morning, surrounded by his family.

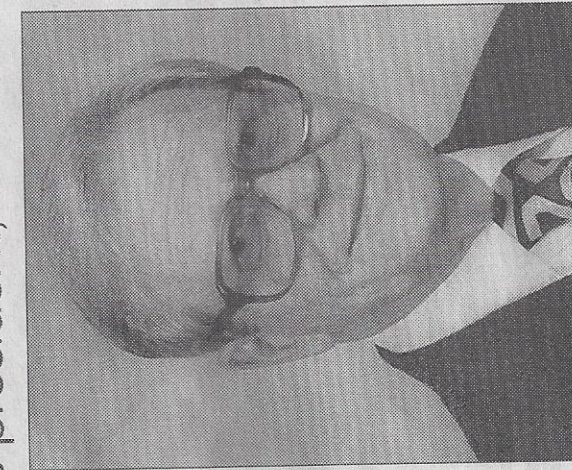
Born in Wellesley, Massachusetts in 1914, Mr. Harris twice interrupted an early career with Newton Savings Banks to serve in both World War II and the Korean War. When he and his family moved to Claremont in 1957, he was serving as a vice president with the Wallace Moir Company in Beverly Hills, specializing in mortgage finance. Later, he joined Pomona First Federal Savings and Loan, from which he eventually retired.

Mr. Harris' wife, Bertie, worked as a registered nurse at Hillhaven Convalescent Center on Indian Hill Boulevard followed by serving as the nursing

supervisor at Claremont Manor. Together, they had 3 children, all graduates of Claremont High School: Bill, CHS class of 1961, Nanci, class of 1970 and Susan, class of 1965. His son was also a 1966 graduate of Claremont Men's College (now Claremont McKenna College). Both daughters were active in the Claremont chapter of the International Order of Job's Daughters.

Family shared that Mr. Harris was a warm, fun-loving family man who always had a twinkle in his eye. Within his large, extended family, he was the favorite "Uncle Henry." Among the many others who will miss his lively presence are numerous Claremonters who accompanied the Harris family on vacations to Buzzards Bay and Nantucket on the East Coast. In the friendly company of Mr. Harris and his family, these friends of all ages often enjoyed their first tastes of Cape Cod and striped bass fishing.

Mr. Harris is survived by his son, Bill Harris of Hollywood; his daughter, Nanci Harris of Mira Loma; his daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Larry Hannah of Apple Valley; his granddaughters, Lisa Barron-Bussey and her husband, Marc, of Victorville,



Stephanie Hannah of Anaheim and Kristin Long and her husband, Justin, of Laguna Beach; his great-grandchildren, Hannah Barron, Zachary Barron and Jacob Reid Long; his great-grandchildren, Anthony Tapia, Jr. and Abel William Andrew Tapia; and by 3 sisters-in-law and extended family members on the East Coast and in the Washington, DC area.

His sister, Virginia Dupart of Ft. Belvoir, Virginia, predeceased him by only 3 weeks; and his wife of 53 years, Bertie Harris, predeceased him in 1991.

A memorial service will be held at 9 a.m. this Friday, February 3, 2012 at the Thomas Miller Mortuary in Corona, followed by interment with full military honors at Riverside National Cemetery at 11 a.m.

Memorial donations may be made to Meals on Wheels, 4845 Brockton Ave., Riverside, CA 92506.

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