



Niels Arne Ploug

SEP 16, 1926 - FEB 10, 2015



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Niels Arne Ploug

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Niels Ploug, “Chef”, aged 88 of Burlingame died at Kaiser Hospital, Santa Clara on February 10, 2015. He was born on September 16, 1926 in Odense, Denmark to Hans and Johanne Ploug. As a young man the call of the sea led him to a career as chef aboard ships of the Danish Merchant Marines in occupied Denmark during World War II. After World War II he joined the Danish Navy and was stationed in Greenland, then returned to work on civilian merchant ships traveling around the world. During stops in America he fell in love with San Francisco and decided that’s where he wanted to live. Here he became a successful Chef in several restaurants and private clubs around San Francisco. Here he met and married Mary Laura (Koefoed) they settled in Burlingame and raised a family. Niels was also very involved with Boy Scout Troop 10 and enjoyed several years of backpacking with them on the rugged two week ‘Sierra Trek’. His love of the outdoors saw him, the family and friends on many camping, and hunting trips. His later years were enjoyed by cruising the seas and again revisiting many sites, and tastes, of foreign lands. He is preceded in death by wife Mary Laura and by his brothers; Jorgen, Kjeld, and Kai, as well as sisters Edel, Inge, Ellen and Lily. Surviving him are brother Max and Sister Sonja both of Denmark. Niels is also survived by his son Hans Ploug, daughter Gerda Collins and son in law Kevin Collins. As well as grandson Jonathan Collins, his wife Suzanne Collins; great-granddaughters, Emmarie and Lily and grand daughter Deborah Collins. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to the Boy Scouts of America, or the Oceanic Society

~~~~~ Wish list from one whom has not been back to Denmark. Translated by Niels) You ask: “What should, from Denmark, I bring to you” Bring to me from the white beaches, a fresh breeze. It has been a long time ago I felt the breeze. And bring me the Danish summer evening’s silent peace when the bells from the village church ring down the



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sun. Bring back to me the smell from the soft of the forest and the songs of the nightingale in the warm of the dusk. Bring me a glimmer of a lake, and all of the blue sea around the Belts with the small sailboats. Bring me the sounds from the babbling brook in the forest and from the birds' twittering in the green hedges. Bring me the clear tone from the Danish lark when it is high in the blue skies over the land. Bring me the fine scent of true Danish violet. Catch me the gleam of the setting sun. Bring me the gentle shimmer of light of the forest – a blink from a star over the blue water. Bring me from Denmark on the last day of the journey, a delightful crack from the flapping of the noble old flag.



## Tribute Wall

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HP

**Hans Ploug** posted:

To those of us who "grew up" with Niels behind the stove – or alongside many of his international teams in San Francisco – "Cheffie" as he was called was the greatest mentor anyone could ask for. Some of the greatest and most influential individuals from San Francisco enjoyed his fresh food cuisine at the Concordia Argonaut Club for nearly 25 years – long before slow food and local became "de rigueur" for the foodies of the Bay Area. My greatest memories of Niels will always be: the ultimate patriarch; a good father and husband who always wanted what was right for his family; an extrovert that always spoke his mind – whether it was driving in his car in heavy traffic, or great political discussions and discourse with others; and last but not least, Niels lived life very much in his own way, but always respected others who chose another path than his own. Niels Ploug and his footprint will forever be remembered by me, and many, many others. Philip Bay

March 15 at 8:24 AM

BC

**Barney Chan** posted:

Thank you for the honor of being able to serve your family. Blessings, Barney Chan Funeral Arranger  
Skylawn Memorial Park

March 4 at 8:39 AM



# **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Niels by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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