



# Vernon Branco

JUN 27, 1923 - OCT 24, 2013



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## Vernon Branco

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Vernon Branco, aged 90, of South San Francisco, CA, died peacefully in his sleep at his home in South San Francisco on Thursday, October 24, 2013 at 7:22am. He was born in British Guiana (now Guyana), South America on June 27, 1923 to John Pereira Branco and Angelina Petronella (Leal) Branco and was the youngest of five children. When he was four years old, he emigrated with his family to the United States, landing in New York and eventually settling in San Francisco, where he spent his childhood. He attended Edison Grammar School, James Lick Junior High School and graduated from Mission High School in 1941. He was the only one of his siblings to graduate from high school. After graduation, he was employed by Pacific Telephone but this was interrupted by World War II when he was drafted into the US Army in January 1943. After basic training at Camp Roberts, Monterey, he was assigned to the 105th Infantry Regiment, 27th Infantry Division and saw action in the South Pacific Theater, fighting on Saipan and Okinawa. The 105th Infantry Regiment received the Presidential Unit Citation for Battle Honors for the "exceptionally outstanding performance of duty in the combat against the enemy at Saipan, Marianas Island, on 7 July 1944". He was also part of the first troops to occupy Japan, upon their surrender, until non-combatant troops could be mustered for the occupation. After being honorably discharged in December 1945, he returned to San Francisco to resume his employment at Pacific Telephone and marry his high school sweetheart, Hermina "Minnie" Schwabecher, on January 19, 1946. They were extremely active in the local and state-wide square dancing scene, where Vern held many executive positions in the different square dancing organizations. They loved square dancing and traveled all over to attend dances, hoe-downs and conventions. They remained intensely devoted to each other until Minnie's death due to Alzheimer's Disease in 1998. At Pacific Telephone, he was an Engineer in the Division of Revenue, where his duties included performing separation studies of telephone



## Obituary

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equipment regarding toll and exchange equipment. He held that position for 30 years, retiring in 1983. During the Korean War, he felt the call of duty and re-enlisted in the Ready Reserve at the Presidio in San Francisco and served there from 1950 until 1953. During this time, he attained the rank of Warrant Officer JG. He loved camping and instilled this love of the outdoors to his family. Almost every family vacation was a two week camping trip to someplace in Northern California. Camping started out with tents and over the years, advanced to a "pop-top" trailer and eventually to an RV, in which he and Minnie traveled extensively. He experienced three strokes, the worst of which was in 2005. He never quite recovered from that one and ultimately his health gradually declined until his death. Vern is survived by his three children and five grandchildren: son Michael (Diane) Branco and their two children, Michael and Angela; daughter Michele (Tom) Rodgers and their three children, Catherine (Forrest) Davie, Lisa and Rene; and son David. A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at 11:00am at Skylawn Memorial Park in San Mateo, followed by a Celebration of Life at a nearby establishment.



## Tribute Wall

**Vernon Branco**

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RS

**Rose Swift** posted:

Most organized picture taker there ever was!! Miss him always!

July 23 at 8:39 PM

PM

**Paul Magallanes** posted:

As a small child growing up with Vernon's son David, I recall the many pins on the square dancing vests, seemingly covering not only the US, but also abroad. I knew that some day I would love to travel such as Vern and Minnie. I remember getting a healthy spoon full of Nestle's Instant Chocolate, and I also remember the first time I saw his army uniform neatly folded and put away. Vern was always kind, and above all, fair when us children became unruly. As often as possible when visiting, I would say hello to Vern and give him a hug. He was always curious how I was doing, so our talks were not just superficial. His smile is now shared with Minnie eternally, with the Lord. We love you and shall miss you dearly!

November 12 at 11:42 AM

JO

**Josephine** posted:

Vernon was a very loving, loyal, and best friend to me and my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. They all loved and respected him. We will always miss him. Love, Josephine

November 6 at 3:56 PM

GE

**Geraldine** posted:

Beautiful memories of Vern. He was always loving and kind to everyone. He was always cheerful and smiling, thoughtful, patient, and calm. He never complained. He was a talented Square Dancer, and was very organized. He liked to laugh. He was my Mom's trusted and dearest friend. He is truly a great example of 'The Greatest Generation'. Once with a b-b gun, he showed Stephen and I what an expert shot he was. We were Blessed to have had him in our lives. ps I don't think he liked to eat broccoli, but loved curry. Geraldine

November 1 at 1:37 PM



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DI

**Dianne** posted:

When I think of Vernon, I always picture him with his adorable smile and kindness to every one He was a very giving and wonderful person. He was a great joy to have in our family particularly during the Holidays. . Vernon was a very special person that added joy into our lives. I will miss him .  
Lovingly, Dianne

October 31 at 11:31 AM



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

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



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