



Norman Sodman

OCT 25, 1921 - FEB 21, 2020



Scan to Visit



FUNERAL HOME, MEMORIAL PARK & CREMATORY

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5



Norman Sodman

OCT 25, 1921 - FEB 21, 2020

N orman Ludwig Sodman, 98

October 25, 1921- February 21, 2020

Beloved husband, brother, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, and friend passed away at Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City, CA, February 21, 2020. Norm was born one of 6 children in Anoka, Minnesota, on October 25, 1921, to Herman and Caroline (Mueller) Sodman.

His sister Marcy remembers their growing up years...how everybody depended on him to keep their spirits up and help out, how he watched out for her when she went on dates, and how popular "Soddy" was with friends. Having skipped 2 grades, Norm graduated from high school at age 16 and, being too young to enlist, worked until he could join the National Guard. He was called up during his first year in college.

Norm served in the European theater in WWII as a First Lieutenant in the U. S. Army. He was awarded a Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in Germany. He "accompanied an assault company and, despite murderous fire, set up an observation post in a building which was receiving constant enemy shellfire. Despite the intense personal danger, Lieutenant Sodman remained at his post and directed effective artillery fire on the enemy until the end of the operation. His action, far above and beyond the call of duty, is in keeping with the finest traditions of the American officer and reflect the highest credit on Lieutenant Sodman..."

After the war, on July 13, 1945, he married Helen L. Rutherford in Casper, WY, and had two children, Steven Rutherford and Andrea Louise.

Norm earned his Bachelor of Science in Agronomy from Colorado A&M College in 1948, and during his career, worked in 11 countries on 4 continents in various aspects of agricultural



Obituary

Norman Sodman

OCT 25, 1921 - FEB 21, 2020

development. He managed a broad range of efforts, from figuring the best crop to provide the highest yield of protein given particular conditions to building by hand a small earthen dam for watering crops to devising a method for preventing desert sand from blowing across a newly built airport tarmac.

Later in life, Norm volunteered seasonally as a tax preparer for senior services and served on the board at Messiah Lutheran Church in Redwood City, CA, where he was a member for 59 years. His primary sport and social outlet was his involvement with the Seniors in Retirement bowling league where he found great fun and deep friendships.

Norm was devoted to his family and is lovingly remembered by his surviving relatives: sister Marcella Johnson of Anoka, MN; daughter Andrea Dugan of Coeur d'Alene, ID; his granddaughters, Rachel (Dave) Ortolan of Half Moon Bay, CA, and Katie (Todd) Shinn of Glen Ellen, CA; great grandchildren Sabina Ortolan, Norman Shinn, Amelia Ortolan, and Louise Shinn. His wife Helen, son Steve, and 4 siblings (Ida Schwab, Paul Sodman, Baby Sodman, and Martha Hitzman) predeceased him. We all remember his quiet humor, inventive mind, indomitable spirit, loving heart, and ever-present support.

No service will be held at this time due to the Covid 19 pandemic.



Tribute Wall

Norman Sodman

OCT 25, 1921 - FEB 21, 2020

JZ

Jim Zierolf posted:

i boweld with norm i was the one how put his ball first on the rack so he could find itor we would be there util he found this ball a great guy jim zierolf (and he beat me)

February 7 at 9:30 AM

EB

Ed Bruzzone posted:

I only knew Norm for a couple of years through the SIRS bowling leagues at Bel Mateo Bowl but I can attest that he was an inspiration to me and all of us "youngsters". On the lanes we affectionately referred to him as "Stormin' Norman". I wasn't aware of his history until I read his obit but I'm not surprised at what he was able to accomplish during his long and productive life. His WWII Silver Star is impressive but not unexpected - they don't much build men like Norm anymore. He is greatly missed.Ed Bruzzone

February 2 at 10:41 AM



AD

Andrea L S Dugan posted:

It's always intrigued me, this idea of how we appear differently in different stages of our lives, depending on our changing interests or abilities, our age or our health, or simply what activities or subjects we might get introduced to by people we meet and spend time with. It means that new people we meet don't have the opportunity to know us in our fullness in the same way that we know ourselves or that others who have known us all our lives perceive us. We carry all the experiences of our lives with us, and if we know a person for a while, they might dribble out in conversation over the years ...but probably not all of them. That is the richness that comes from us all sharing our memories...that perhaps we can piece together a mosaic of the man that Dad was – the man, husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, friend, competitor, etc. that he was. When I was a little girl, Dad used to tell my brother Steve and me bedtime stories about Bugs and Chugs who were rabbits in the army. I don't remember the exact content of those stories, but I remember the characters, and I came to learn that the stories he told us were based on funny experiences he had had in the army. As I got older, he added more pieces to those stories, and very recently, he told me of the really frightening aspects of those experiences...what danger he had actually been in as a forward observer for the infantry...the story of how he had earned his silver star for bravery.

December 22 at 3:01 PM

NH

Nan Hamlin March 1 at 11:55 AM

Norm was the man I called my second Dad. What a lucky girl I was to have had two such wonderful men who cared for me while I was growing up! Living across the street from the Sodmans was just the best any kid could ask for! There was always something going on at their house... most often fun! Norm was so thoughtful and quiet, but had a sparkle in his eyes and a wonderful sense of humor! He always had thought provoking words of advice for us. I always felt such sincere concern and love from him. After growing up and getting married, he and Helen traveled to wherever my family was to celebrate Thanksgiving with us. Even after my Dad passed, the tradition of our Thanksgiving celebrations continued. My memories of Norm and the Sodman family will forever be cherished. I am truly grateful to have had all of them in my life!

TN

Todd Neel December 27 at 3:17 AM

Andrea, I'm sorry for the loss of your father. Thanks for sharing these words about him with us. To the best of your recollection, I encourage you to write his life story as best you can. (And, write your own life story as well!) Peace, Todd Neel



Memories only last if you share them

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



Scan to Visit



FUNERAL HOME, MEMORIAL PARK & CREMATORY