



# Harold Armen Nizamian

JUL 25, 2023



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FUNERAL HOME, MEMORIAL PARK & CREMATORY

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# Harold Armen Nizamian

JUL 25, 2023

**H**arold Armen Nizamian, a man beloved by all, passed away at the age of 94 at 8:05 AM on July 25th, 2023, surrounded by close family, at his home of many decades in Palo Alto, California.

Harry was born on October 5th, 1928 in Philadelphia, PA. He is the son of Paul and Mollie Nizamian, who escaped the Armenian Genocide and started a new life in America.

Harry was in foster care during the Great Depression with his siblings and subsequently reunited with his Father and moved to California.

Drafted into the Army in 1952 during the Korean War, he was sent to Germany as a French interpreter. Mastering the German language, he met his first wife Gelda, and was honorably discharged as a Sergeant in 1954.

He worked 3 jobs while attending UC Berkeley, and majored in International Business in the Class of 1960.

Beginning his career as a traveling salesman selling toys for R. Dakin Co, he soon led the company's drastic transition from selling guns to soft animal toys instead. As Vice President, he steered the company through the tragic death of most of the founding Dakin family in 1966. As chairman, CEO and President from 1966-1990, he led the dramatic expansion of the company, growing its annual sales from just \$3M to over \$240M. For developing the distinctive line of sleepy-eyed Garfield plush toys which were ubiquitous in the 1980s and 90s, he earned the nickname "The Father of Garfield."

A fluent speaker of 7 languages, Harry spent decades conducting business around the world. On a business trip in Japan he met his second wife, Fuji, whom he married in 1965. From Antwerp to Tokyo, he built bridges and made lifelong friendships. He received commendations from the



## Obituary

## Harold Armen Nizamian

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government of Korea and was one of the first people to ride the Shinkansen in Japan while attending the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

He married Kasie Cheung in 1987 and became a father of two boys, Andrew in 1990 and Dustin in 1992. Over the next two decades he would become a father to many others. He adopted Emily and Sonia Chim in 1988, Hoki Luk and Gary Luk in 1994 and Clinton Cheung in 2005. To many more he was “Uncle Harry,” including his nieces Susan Silverstrom, Jackie Clore and Debbie Nichols. Harry would go to the greatest lengths to protect and provide for the ones he loved, and never missed a graduation, birthday, performance or soccer game. He would drop everything and drive 100 miles to pick up a limited edition Pokemon, just to bring a smile to your face.

A pillar of the community, Harry became famous for performing pushups for every point scored by his son Dustin’s high school football team at raucous Friday night games, and was also a devoted member of Wesley United Methodist Church. He loved mugging an audience with Winston Churchill jokes and dancing on tables wherever he could. He lives on through the family and friends mentioned here, and countless others.


A celebration of Harry’s incredible life will be held at Skylawn Memorial Park in San Mateo at 1pm on Tuesday, August 1st, 2023. Please see this link to RSVP:  
<https://forms.gle/sAztx7h2hmsRUwUY7>

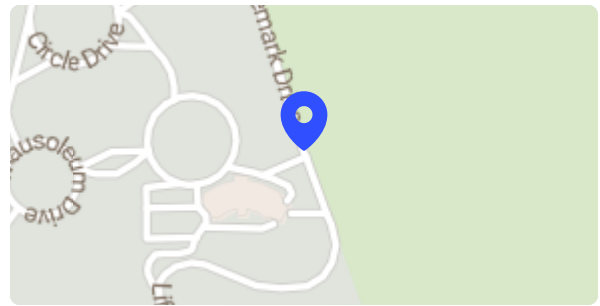


## Funeral Service

 **Tuesday**, August 1, 2023

 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM PT

 **Skylawn Funeral Home and Crematory**  
888 LifeMark Road, Half Moon Bay CA 94019



## Burial Service

 **Tuesday**, August 1, 2023

 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM PT

 **Skylawn Memorial Park**  
Hwy 92 at Skyline Blvd., San Mateo CA 94402





## Tribute Wall

**Harold Armen Nizamian**



**Dennis Woodruff** posted:

A truly sad event, the most caring and considerate man I have met. God Bless him.

August 30 at 8:28 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the Nizamian family.

July 31 at 5:00 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Nizamian family.

July 31 at 12:18 PM



**Anonymous** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Harold.

July 31 at 12:18 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Nizamian family.

July 31 at 11:01 AM



**Anonymous** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Harold.

July 31 at 11:01 AM





## Tribute Wall

Harold Armen Nizamian



**Anonymous** sent an Enchanted Cottage to the Nizamian family.

July 31 at 7:46 AM



**Anonymous** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Harold.

July 31 at 7:46 AM



**David, Madeleine & Family With Love.** sent a Sweet Tranquility Basket to the Nizamian family.

July 30 at 11:09 PM



**David, Madeleine & Family With Love.** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Harold.

July 30 at 11:09 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Nizamian family.

July 30 at 7:34 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray to the Nizamian family.

July 29 at 6:15 PM





## Tribute Wall

**Harold Armen Nizamian**



**Cherryl A. Paul** posted:

Professor Niz, you lived life to the fullest and we were lucky enough to be brought along for part of the journey. You made Dakin a unique place to work and you truly cared about the employees. Lots of memories to cherish.

July 29 at 1:21 PM



**Cherryl & Randy Paul** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Nizamian family.

July 29 at 1:10 PM



**Cherryl & Randy Paul** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Harold.

July 29 at 1:10 PM



**Ceci** posted:

My Harry, you were one of the people that I respected the most in the whole universe!! You had a heart of Gold and at the same time, a great humorous personality! I am honored to have worked with you through your last endeavor!! We had fun with John too!! You are an angel in heaven and I'm sure you are continuing to have a great time and you are going to make a difference in heaven just like you did here. Love you Harry, until we meet again!

July 29 at 12:30 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Nizamian family.

July 29 at 7:50 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Days of Sunshine Bouquet to the Nizamian family.

July 28 at 3:44 PM





## Tribute Wall

**Harold Armen Nizamian**



**Love, Steven And Toni Bock** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Nizamian family.

July 28 at 2:13 PM



**Anonymous** sent an Ocean Breeze Spray to the Nizamian family.

July 28 at 12:26 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Reflections of Glory Wreath to the Nizamian family.

July 28 at 12:21 PM



**Richard Thompson** posted:

We have many rich memories of "Uncle Harry" - our neighbor and then church member... memories of joy and laughter, as well as grief and tears. One could find no better friend, no more generous man, no one more willing to sacrifice for family and friends, than Harold Nizamian.

July 28 at 10:31 AM



**Pastor Richard & Family** sent a Basket Full of Wishes to the Nizamian family.

July 28 at 10:14 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Nizamian family.

July 28 at 5:28 AM





## Tribute Wall

**Harold Armen Nizamian**



**Clint Parker** posted:

Uncle Harry was the best! While he was not my uncle, he was my cousin's, and I was happy I got to spend time with him when he came back to visit Paul, his nephew namesake of his father, I got the pleasure of seeing in action at the Gatlinburg toy con and playing tennis with him. He called me when Paul was killed and offered his condolences. He was a special man, and I look forward to seeing him again in Heaven.

July 28 at 4:08 AM



**Anonymous** sent an Enchanted Cottage to the Nizamian family.



July 27 at 5:09 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Nizamian family.



July 27 at 3:49 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the Nizamian family.



July 27 at 2:01 PM



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

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



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