



## Ernest Watson

September 6, 1929 - May 11, 2015

Passed away peacefully in his sleep on May 11, 2015. He was 85 years old. Born on September 6, 1929, he grew up in Brentwood and attended Santa Monica High School. Ernie had fond memories of playing in the CIF championship football game of 1947. The Pacific Ocean was his playground and in the days of 150 pound surf boards, he and his friends pioneered surfing in Malibu. Ernie was a veteran of the Korean War (Army Corps of Engineers). He attended the University of California at Berkley, where he joined the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity and received his degree from the School of Architecture in 1955. In that same year, he met his future wife, Deirdre O'Rourke. The couple were married in San Francisco in 1955 and moved to Santa Barbara the following year. Ernie worked in the Engineering Department of Curtis Wright before "hanging out his shingle" to practice Architecture in 1958. His 50 year practice included many local landmarks, among them; the Music Academy of the West, Saint Francis Hospital, the Poor Claire's Monastery and 3 West Carrillo as well as commercial properties and private residences. He also served on local planning commissions and architectural review boards. Ernest was a member of the University Club since 1956, spending many of those years in the billiards room. He was an avid boatman and partner in a 40 foot cabin cruiser. The Bonito was a source of many great memories of trips to the Channel Islands with family and friends. Ernest was a principled and dedicated family man who loved and took pride in his family. He is survived by his wife, Deirdre of 60 years, sons Sean (Mary), Michael and

daughter Deirdre "Misty" Gerry, all of Santa Barbara, grandchildren Conor and Caitlin "Caity" Watson and Matthew Gerry. He is also survived by his two younger brothers Richard (Norma) and James. Ernest leaves many tangible reminders of his influence as an Architect in Santa Barbara. He also leaves behind family and friends, who will miss him dearly. A celebration of Ernie's life will be held on Thursday, June 4th at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church at 10:00 AM followed by a reception at the University Club.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JUN 4. 10:00 AM (PT)

Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church  
21 E Sola Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

# Tribute Wall

BS

“Ernie was a great warm honest direct sincere devout caring person. My sons and I so enjoyed visiting with him. He made the time, even if he said he didn't have time time.. he did take time.. and, as he was just going out to an appointment, he still talked to you; and he had lots of appointments and made lots of time for others. :-) I will remember his broad smile and tall figure as he hand-drew efficiently on his drawing board. He was practical, definitive, and helped people the best he could. I so enjoyed working together with him after the Painted Cave Fire. He was the good kind of 'old fashioned'; a reliable friend. He would argue his point, but would also respect another's needs and opinion. I see him, in my mind, carrying around the many projects he worked on that were carefully drawn and rolled for transport. My son says, "Ernie was a really nice old guy that I've known all my life; I will always truly miss him because he always had a warm smile (and something nice (encouraging) to say)." His face said it all; no matter how old he became, that smile was just as grand! A wonderful sight to see! You will be remembered by our family Ernie. Blessings to your family. Beatrice, Sam (& Simon)

---

Beatrice, Sam (& Simon) - June 03, 2015 at 11:38 PM