



George Bernard Primbs MD

August 20, 1929 - January 7, 2024

George Bernard Primbs, M.D. (1929-2024) passed away on January 7, 2024, in Santa Barbara.

Born in Pocatello, Idaho to George and Mae Primbs, Dr. Primbs had a passion for high-end cars and wine. He enjoyed fly fishing, hunting and traveling. He graduated from UCSB in 1951 and was one of the members of the first graduating class of UCLA medical school in 1955. He served as a staff ophthalmologist and captain in the USAF and later served three years in Libya as a flight surgeon. He also served in the Navy as a Machinist's Mate Fireman. As a lover of wine, in 1990, he joined a local group of retired friends that made their own wine. As the fifth member, he coined the label 'Los Cincos Locos.' He was the first director of the Lions Eye Laboratory at St Francis Hospital and co-founder of the non profit SEE International. He was also a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons since 1972. He faithfully served the local community of Santa Barbara for many years as a prominent ophthalmologist and retina specialist.

He is predeceased by his wife Bessie J. Primbs and son Charles "Charlie" Primbs. He is survived by his son George Primbs III and daughter Catherine Rose Primbs. Viewing will be on Tuesday 1/23 from 6-7pm at Welch-Ryce-Haider downtown Chapel. The Funeral Mass will be held at San Roque Church on Wednesday 1/24, 10:30am followed by burial at Calvary Cemetery. Reception immediately following at the University Club from 1:00 - 3:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers, kindly send donations to Vision Care Program SEE International in his honor.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **23**. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

Welch-Ryce-Haider - Downtown
15 E. Sola St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 965-5145
info@wrhsb.com
<https://www.wrhsb.com>

Funeral Mass

JAN **24**. 10:30 AM (PT)

San Roque Catholic Church
325 Argonne Circle
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
(805) 687-5215

Burial

JAN **24**. 11:45 AM (PT)

Calvary Cemetery
199 North Hope Ave
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
(805) 687-8811
http://www.archdiocese.la/directories/cemeteries/info.php?cemetery_id=3

Reception

JAN **24**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (PT)

University Club of Santa Barbara
1332 Santa Barbara St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 966-0853
<http://www.uclubofsantabarbara.org/>

Tribute Wall

EB

“ Dr. George used to invite Josie Gower and I to the Casa Dorinda in Montecito for their amazing brunches and to his home on Santa Barbara St. for dinners and parties! We were close to him at that time. I remember 1 of the little dinners at his home. It was for my birthday! A small group of about 8 people. After dinner we went to his famous wine cellar. He blindfolded me, turned me around a few times and said go pick out a bottle! I said OK and walked down one of the aisles, reached up and grabbed a bottle! George took the bottle to open it and said, “My God! You picked a 1957 Lafite Rothschild!” He opened it and we all drank it, mmmm delicious, but he never had me pick another bottle again! I think the bottle was worth a few thousand dollars! elle bentley

elle bentley - January 23, 2024 at 10:01 PM