



John Battagin

July 8, 1915 - August 31, 2014

Giovanni (John) Battista Battagin, 99, passed away peacefully at his home in Santa Barbara, California on Sunday, August 31, 2014. He was preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Angelina (Brombal) Battagin. He is survived by his daughter Rose Marie (Battagin) Herrett, son-in-law Robert H. Herrett also of Santa Barbara and grandson Sean T. Malis, his wife Julianna Robesky Malis, great grandchildren Olivia Malis, Teresa Malis, Anthony Malis, step great grandchildren Leah Makler and James Makler.

Mr. Battagin was born in San Zenone degli Ezzelini, a small village in the northern province of Treviso, Veneto, Italy on July 8th, 1915, to the late Luigi and Maria (Crispi) Battagin.

John spent his first few years of life on the family farm which was located near the fighting of the Italian and Austro-Hungarian front of World War I. During his teens John became an apprentice cabinet maker. In 1935 he was inducted into the Italian Army as soldier of the Bersaglieri or light bicycle mounted infantry. While in the Army, John served as an aide to General Salvatore di Pietro's, the Commanding General of Sicily, and on more than one occasion was present at meetings with Italian dictator Benito Mussolini. Having served his obligatory enlistment in 1938, he returned to San Zenone where he met and soon married his wife Angelina Brobal.

As Europe descended into a second world war, John's then pregnant wife returned to Santa Barbara, leaving him behind as he waited for the US Consulate in Venice to slowly process his visa. Events in Italy quickly overtook

John's immigration efforts to leave for America to join his wife and new born daughter. After working as a carpenter for various Italian government contractors, John was recalled back into the Italian Army and stationed in Yugoslavia fighting counter-Axis forces or Partisans.

John survived the fall of the Fascist Italian government and the surrender of Italy's armed forces to the Allies. He was on the first "brides-of-war" ship to leave Genoa in 1946 for New York. After travelling across the country he finally reunited with his wife Angelina and his seven year old daughter Rose who he had yet to meet.

John and Angelina quickly began rebuilding their lives in America with their daughter Rose and the help of the close knit Italian-American families of Santa Barbara. John went to work for various construction contractors in Santa Barbara during the post war housing boom. He rose to master carpenter, cabinet maker and Carpenter's Union member, retiring in 1979.

John returned several times to visit his family in Italy. His last visit to Italy was in 2005 where he was honored by the town council of San Zenone degli Ezzelini for his wartime service and longevity.

He was thoroughly dedicated to his family, spending his retirement working in his garden, enjoying picnics, family gatherings, garage sales and watching his family grow up. He was active in the Italian-American Boot Club and the Madonna del Grappa organizations in Santa Barbara and many other charitable organizations.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

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

Tribute Wall

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“ To the Family and Friends of John Battagin:

I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your loved one.

I hope that you can find comfort in the following scripture found at 2 Corinthians 1: 3,4 that refers to God as "the Father of tender mercies and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our trials."

One the many ways we can be comforted is knowing that very soon God intends to raise from the grave those who have died and that soon death will no longer be something that people experience. (John 5:28,29 and Revelation 21:3,4)

If you would like further information please please go to Jw.org to request more information or please feel free to contact me directly.

*Sincerely,
Danielle*

Danielle - September 19, 2014 at 12:16 PM