



Wilbert "Sparky" Ware

October 5, 1921 - August 31, 2015

WILBERT "SPARKY" WARE passed away peacefully at the age of 93, on Monday, August 31st, 2015, at the Californian in Santa Barbara, Ca. He was born in Beaumont, Texas on Oct. 2, 1921 to Beatrice and Johnny Ware. He was raised and mentored in his formative years by his Grandpa and Grandma Ware, and gained his passion for cooking, hunting and fishing during his childhood in rural Texas.

He loved cooking, especially Creole dishes that he learned from his grandma. She also taught him how to sew, while making quilts and school clothes. He preferred time with her in the house, rather than working with his siblings in the cotton fields. His grandpa took him hunting and taught him to train hunting dogs, break and ride horses and shoot accurately.

When he was 14 years old, he moved to Houston, Texas and started work as a cook, which became his passion and career path.

His grandmother's training served him well as an adult, when he volunteered for the Army and worked as a cook with the construction battalion, serving in Burma and India during the Second World War. He made some side money sewing on fellow officers' stripes and ironing their uniforms. He called it "Boony Rue" when pants had the perfect crease.

After his military service, he moved to Santa Barbara, and cooked at his mother's restaurant on Haley and Garden. He worked at The Blue Onion, currently IHOP, on State Street, as a short order cook. He also cooked at the

Biltmore Hotel for many years.

In his spare time, he loved to hunt, reminiscent of his youth. He and his buddies hunted small and large game on Figueroa Mountain with Rambler, his favorite hunting dog.

He was preceded in death by his wife and daughter many years ago, and most recently his girlfriend and companion, Miss Ellie Drew.

He is survived by his adopted family of twenty five years, Derrick Curtis and Trudie Olsen-Curtis, who will miss his wisdom, his mentoring, his animated storytelling, his colorful sense of humor and his tenacity.

A celebration of life will be held Friday, September 11, at 9:30 am at Welch-Ryce-Haider

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

SEP 11. 9:30 AM (PT)

Welch-Ryce-Haider - Downtown

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