



## William "Bill" A. Stewart

September 30, 1918 - March 13, 2014

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William (Bill) Stewart passed peacefully at Serenity House on Thursday having attained 95 years-of-age. Born in Portland, Oregon, Bill was raised by a Scots-Irish mother and Irish grandmother. It was Bill's great joy to be adopted (at 13 years-of-age) by Fred A. Stewart. His mother's new husband provided a sorely missed male role model and changed the course of his life. In young adulthood, Bill graduated from Stanford University (BA and MA in political science) and began the rise-through-the-ranks to Colonel in the U.S. Air Force (as "test pilot.") During his service, he worked at the Pentagon (as "Briefer for the Joint Chiefs of Staff") and later received his PhD at UCLA while yet in uniform and engaging in government research at the RAND Corporation. Enjoying vocational success, still he placed even greater store in relationships. Offered a position as Assistant Secretary of State for Ronald Reagan, he declined in order to companion his second wife through chemotherapy treatments for cancer. He dearly loved his children (taking them most summers on camping trips to Bridgeport, CA and supporting them in all their endeavors) and he appreciated his good fortune in wives. (Well, he loved women generally - a bit of a ladies' man!) There were three wives who shared with him different stages of his life's journey: Betty Petersen Stewart, Margaret Hodgkins Stewart (mother of his surviving children,) and Marion Alvarello Fraser Stewart. Bill imparted another of his passions, a love for wine, to

Marion Stewart's son, Peter (who became an oenologist.) While Bill had experienced impressive adventures living in various European countries in his young adulthood (supporting an Italian opera singer in Italy,) it was later in life - within semi-retirement - that he discovered his strongest passion: tennis. He was a tennis club lizard, lingering for hours to pick up stray games. A natural for someone who carved his early retirement in Santa Barbara, CA! When he wasn't busy tearing up the courts, he helped found the "Camerata Pacifica" while overseeing Stewart Orchids, a company begun by his father in 1949. He lived a robust life always adopting a positive attitude (his children's mother had marveled, "He awakes cheerful, each morning!") Bill cherished his family, and was greatly loved by them. So many of his qualities, and of his being, shall be held dear by family members and lifelong friends across their lives!

William Stewart is survived by three children: Michael M. Stewart, Ian A. Stewart, and A. Arabella Stewart as well as by three grandchildren: Wade Cowper, Ashley Stewart, and Ian Stewart, Jr. Margaret Stewart, cherished mother of his three, surviving children, pre-deceased her husband. Pamela Stewart Leamon, a beautiful being born of his first marriage, also pre-deceased her father.

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 2:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Society Sanctuary, 1535 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara.

In lieu of flowers, the family would be honored by your remembrance of their father with a contribution to any of the following Santa Barbara foundations: Serenity House, Camerata Pacifica, The Music Academy of the West, or - outside Santa Barbara and in the tennis domain - to the Pete Brown Scholarship Fund (promoting junior tennis development for inner-city youth): [www.pbsf2009.com](http://www.pbsf2009.com).

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

MAR 19. 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM (PT)

Unitarian Society  
1535 Santa Barbara St.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101