

Hershel F. Whitefield

1919-2011



Hershel F. Whitefield passed away peacefully at his home in Nipomo with his family by his side on August 10, 2011. He was born August 17, 1919 in the small town of Lakeview, Texas. He moved to Santa Maria, California after finishing High School. Hershel was drafted in April, 1941 and served in the U.S. Army 18th Combat Engineers during World War II in the Aleutian Islands. It was there that he was assigned to a task force to help build the Alcan Highway, a vitally needed overland supply route. The highway acted as a lifeline for American forces in Alaska during WWII. While stationed in some of the most forbidding terrain in North America, he formed an extraordinary bond with his fellow officers and remained in close touch with them for the rest of his life. Most people will remember him as a General Building Contractor for over 30 years in the Santa Maria Valley. He enjoyed his work as a builder and all the fine people he met along the way.

He will be remembered as a man of his word and was fond of saying, "I have done many a business deal with only a handshake" Hershel was active in the community, on the Board of Appeal for the City of Santa Maria, Board member of the Carpenter Apprenticeship program, Vocational Training Center, Santa Maria Valley Contractors Association, Chamber of Commerce, Elks Lodge 1538, and the Orcutt Mineral Society. After retirement, he switched gears to growing of Avocado, Lemon and Tropical trees in the Nipomo Foothills. He enjoyed traveling with his wife Mary, visiting all fifty states as well as touring many countries. His hobbies included cutting and polishing stones as well as oil painting. Hershel was an avid reader and well versed in most subjects. He was interested in world affairs, and always very fond of sharing a joke or two - with a chuckle. Hershel also found great joy being with his family and good friends. He was especially proud of his two grandsons, Rawley and Dustin.

He was preceded in death by his parents Frank and Fannie Whitefield, sisters Lorena Allen of Lawndale and Juanita Mann of Santa Maria; brother Earl Whitefield, and daughter Sheila Whitefield, both of Santa Maria. He is survived by Mary, his beloved wife of 59 years; his daughter and her husband, Karen and Randy Hermreck of Arroyo Grande; grandsons, Rawley Hermreck of Santa Maria and Dustin Hermreck of Nipomo, along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Services to honor and celebrate his life will be held at Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary Friday August 19 at 11:00 am. Visitation will be from 9:00 am until time of funeral. Burial will follow the services at the Arroyo Grande Cemetery. Friends, if they so desire, may make contributions to the Sheila D. Whitefield Memorial Fund, held at Community Bank of Santa Maria 1421 S. Broadway, Santa Maria CA 93454 or to CASA of Santa Barbara County 120 East Jones Street, Suite 130 Santa Maria, CA 93454 or to a favorite charity.

Arrangements are under the direction of Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary, Crematory and Memory Gardens.

**Dudley-Hoffman
Mortuary & Crematory
(805) 922-8463**

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