



## A CELEBRATION OF STANLEY COCOLES

Stanley George Cocolos was born on January 20, 1932 to George and Coula Cocolos in San Francisco, CA. He is the oldest of 5 boys, Charlie (deceased), Paul (Jan), Stamus (Mary, deceased) and Jim (Luba). They grew up on Justin Drive in St Mary's Park, in San Francisco. Dad went to school in San Francisco, including Balboa High School. When dad was 17 he left high school to join the Navy. He served during the Korean War for 4 years mostly in San Diego on the USS Nereus AS 17 and worked on ships and submarines. He went on to be a diesel mechanic for about 42 years working mostly on buses. His last job was working for the City of San Francisco with his brother Jim and he retired at 70 years old.

In 1941 when dad was 9 years old, Ed Linney moved in across the street. They became life long best friends sharing many adventures over the years including taking a road trip to the opening of Disneyland in 1955. Dad and Ed's friendship now includes two more generations, Jackie and Charlene and their children, Johnathan, Ashley, Justin and Amanda.

Dad married Betty Troll in 1958. They have 4 children: Cathy and Carol (1959), Charlene (1964) and Chris (1968). They raised their family in San Bruno full of the many challenges and adventures of raising four children including a pair of mischievous twins. In July 1984, Dad was given the gift of a son-in-law, Alan King, when he married Charlene in South Lake Tahoe.

Two of the biggest highlights in Dad's life were the births of his two beautiful granddaughters, Ashley in January 1992 and Amanda in August 1997. He cherished those girls and they cherished him in return. Earlier this year dad gained a grandson in-law when David Laver married Ashley.

Dad was a very special uncle and great uncle to many nieces and nephews. He was also like a father and grandfather to our cousin Michele and her daughter Jenny.

Dad was an avid car collector and has owned many antique cars throughout his life. He was passionate about Franklins, Fords and Lincolns and his most loved car was his rare 1922 Franklin. Throughout our lives we joined him at countless old car picnics and events including the annual "old car day" at the San Mateo County Fair. Dad shared his love of antique cars with his brother Paul and his best friend Ed.

Dad enjoyed traveling and we treasure the memories of so many vacations with him throughout our lives including Russian River, Lake Tahoe, Reno, Clear Lake, Disneyland, Seattle, New England and Canada. In 2010 we were blessed to experience Greece with our dad where we visited the homes where his parents were born on the island of Crete.

Dad was the most loyal San Francisco 49ers fan around! He became a fan from the very beginning in 1946. He always cheered and supported his team through both their good and bad years. He attended games at the old Kezar Stadium and he took us kids to games at Candlestick Park. There were many fun years of family rivalries with his son Chris' passion for the Seattle Seahawks. Dad was once given an original San Francisco cable car bell to honor his father who was a cable car conductor. During the 49ers' glory years, dad would allow us kids to ring that bell only when the 49ers won a Super Bowl. Of course, we had fun ringing that cable car bell five times and we look forward to ringing it a sixth time in his honor. Dad shared his love of the 49ers with his brother Stamus.

Our dad was often told he resembled President Ronald Reagan. One funny memory was on one of our vacations when he attended the Boston Red Sox game at Fenway Park and some fans said he looked so much like Reagan that they wanted their photo taken with him.

Dad was a member of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral and had many friends in the Greek community. He loved attending the annual festival where he enjoyed the lamb and Metaxa!

Our dad could be a little bit gruff and a whole lot of stubborn but he was always happy, gregarious, humorous and loved being surrounded by his family and friends. He loved a Manhattan before dinner and a shot of Greek Metaxa after. He was a tireless worker who kept his house and garage spotless and extremely organized. One of his favorite pastimes was spoiling all his grand dogs Sharkie, Angel, Emma, Nala, Kipper and Ripley by throwing them slices of bologna whenever they visited. He embraced all challenges with patience, grace and courage. May his memory be eternal.

