



Jerry Leon Colton

July 28, 1935 - July 4, 2019

Jerry Leon Colton was born on July 28, 1935 in Stockton, California. The second child of Myrtle Dodson Colton and John Colton, his family consisted of his older sister Norma, and younger sisters Margie and Inez. His father was a cook for the National Park Service, so the family moved to a number of ranger stations in the California foothills during his youth. Although he and his sister Norma shared fond memories of their time playing outdoors in the orange groves and foothills of Southern California, his childhood was a difficult one largely due to his parent's divorce. When Jerry was 17 years of age, his mother gave her permission for him to join the Navy, where he served as a bosun's mate. His eight years were served during the Korean War, and Jerry remembers Japan in the early 1950's as very poor "like Tijuana, Mexico." Jerry was very proud that he learned to navigate the ship during his time of service and had fond memories of his time in the Navy. He was honorably discharged in 1960.

Following his military service, he was hired by the Pasadena, CA. School District. He was assigned the job of school custodian at the high school level, and held that role for 35 years, earning a district "Unsung Hero" award in 2001. The love of his life, a sweet lady named Agnes, passed away due to Alzheimer's disease during those years. He had no children.

Jerry retired in 2001 and enjoyed long bicycle rides along the foothills of the

San Gabriel Mountains; he loved music, and especially loved visiting with friends and family, sitting outdoors in his breezeway near his plants, and 'shooting the breeze' as the soft breezes blew in from the coast. Jerry did not like driving the Los Angeles area freeways (a sentiment shared by many) so although did not visit his sisters often, they got together at least once a year. Jerry loved his family, evidenced by their photos adorning his mobile home in Monrovia.

Jerry was diagnosed with lung cancer in May, 2019 and following brief hospitalizations in California, he made the decision to move to Missouri to be near his family. His battle with cancer was thankfully, mercifully brief. He passed away peacefully on July 4, 2019 in Rolla, Missouri, in the arms of loved ones, and was welcomed to his heavenly home: Jerry had been baptized into the Christian faith, prior to his passing.

Preceded in death by his parents, Jerry is survived by his sisters, Norma Scanlon, Margie Lawson, and Inez Broome; his brother in law, Bob Broome; and a host of nieces and nephews and their spouses and children. Jerry was a kind soul with a huge heart, and was loved by all who knew him.

Jerry's family would like to thank his neighbors and friends in California for their loving friendship and many kindnesses; especially Charmaine Boyd, Henry Camarena and family, Ana Esparza, Holly Keen, Eleanor Raleigh, and Luis Pastor Villalobos. Although Jerry only lived in Missouri for two weeks, he remarked how pretty it was, and seemed at peace. He did get to see the family farm, but was unable to drive the tractor (John Deere tractors in heaven, perhaps?) He received good care at Salem Memorial District Hospital (special thanks to Lisa DuLany) and was lovingly ministered to by Pastor Barry Baugh of Salem United Methodist Church. We wish to thank our friends and neighbors in Missouri, particularly Bob Gravley for everything he did while Norma was with Jerry in California, and Tom and Mary Behnken for the airport

shuttle. We are grateful to the team of medical professionals who provided such compassionate care to Jerry at Rolla Manor (Angie, Consuela, Melody and Gail) and by Mary Williams and the team at Three Rivers Hospice.

Funeral Service for Jerry Leon Colton was held Wednesday, July 10, 2019 in the Wilson Mortuary Salem Chapel with Pastor Barry Baugh officiating. Song selections played were "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" and "Go Rest High On That Mountain". Serving as Pallbearers were: Bobby Broome, Bob Gravley, Brett Malavenda, Luke Malavenda, Chris Sweitzer and Ken Sweitzer. Burial with Military Honors was in the Missouri Veterans Cemetery in Waynesville, Missouri. All arrangements were under the direction and care of Wilson Mortuary of Salem.

Cemetery Details

Missouri State Veterans Cemetery

Waynesville, MO

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 10. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Wilson Mortuary - Salem
1000 West Scenic Rivers Blvd.
Post Office Box 45
Salem, MO 65560
(573) 729-5555
<https://www.wilsonmortuary.com/>

Service

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Tribute Wall



“ 56 files added to the album *Life Tributes* ”



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