



Marshall West

April 11, 1936 – March 30, 2023

Bernard Marshall West passed away peacefully at the age of 86 on March 30, 2023, after a hospitalization due to an infection. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Karen Lee Lauritson West, and his daughters, Stephanie Dumas West Simon and Jenna Lee West Fasack, his sons-in-law, Jonathan Mark Simon and Ian Scott Fasack, and his beloved grandchildren, Nathan West Simon, Anna Marie Simon, Leah James Fasack, and Vivian Rae Fasack. Additionally, he is survived by his only sibling, his brother Stephen Dumas West, and predeceased by his parents, Carmen Marie Dumas West and Francis Leon

West. He was known by his middle name, Marshall, but often used his first initial professionally: B. Marshall West. Marshall spent the first 5 years of his life in Bethesda, Maryland, where his father was working in Washington, D.C. However, he was born in Minneapolis, where his mother's family lived, and her favorite French-Canadian doctor was located. The family relocated to Wichita, Kansas, where Marshall attended Catholic primary schools and then East High School, where he played football. He attended Yale University for one year but ultimately graduated from the University of Kansas with a degree in business.

Marshall then headed west to attend the University of Southern California, where he received his MBA. After business school, he joined the Marine Corps, where he was stationed in San Diego and had the fortune to run into an old college friend from Kansas, who introduced Marshall to his future wife, Karen, from Monrovia in Southern California. They married on December 22, 1962. In 1967, they bought a home on Birchfield Avenue in Palos Verdes, a beautiful oceanside community in Los Angeles, where they raised their daughters, Stephanie and Jenna. Marshall attended Resurrection Lutheran Church, refereed for youth and local soccer leagues, and enjoyed boating and camping.

Once settled in Los Angeles, Marshall established his business career as an accountant and financial officer at a number of companies, small and large, most notably Mattel Toys, TWA, Sanyo Corporation, and Technicolor, Inc., where his family got to attend movie premieres and have the pleasure (and patience) to wait for the last credits to appear at movies saying "Color by Technicolor," at which point the family all cheered. It was this company that moved its division to Colorado, where the family relocated for 7 years, first to Colorado Springs and then to Denver.

As Marshall was approaching retirement, and he and Karen were itching to get back to California, Stephanie and her husband, Jon, moved to Sonoma County. Once Marshall and Karen realized that they could live near Karen's twin sister AND their grandchildren, they packed up and moved to Petaluma, where they resided for 27 years. Marshall took an active role in caring for his grandchildren, Nathan and Annie, attending many lacrosse and soccer games, band concerts, school events, and graduations.

In Petaluma, Marshall embraced the community as a historical tour guide, Petaluma Historical Museum board member and treasurer, Elim Church stewardship chair and leadership team treasurer, member of the Sons in Retirement, and many other community groups and volunteer organizations. Most notably, local kids remember him as Santa, who sailed up the river and downtown on the annual Petaluma steamship during Thanksgiving weekend, and Santa who listened to their Christmas hopes and wishes during the annual holiday craft fair. In addition, Marshall had the honor to be the bell ringer and reader of the Declaration of Independence at the annual Petaluma History Museum July 4th celebration.

A year prior to his passing, Marshall, along with Karen, moved to San Diego to become residents at Westmont of Encinitas, an assisted living facility just a few minutes from their daughter, Jenna, and her family. He enjoyed spending time with his granddaughters, Leah and Vivian, participating in Westmont's social activities, and serving as treasurer of the resident council. He especially loved the monthly themed "family nights," such as Senior Prom, 50's Night, and musical performances, where he was able to don his famous top hat and tails.

Marshall will be remembered for his twinkling eyes and warm smile, his community spirit, and his ability to listen and relate to all kinds of people. He will be missed dearly by family and friends.