



## William Steven Van Natta

February 16, 1924 - October 19, 2010

William Steven Van Natta, 86, of Vancouver, WA, died Tues., Oct. 19, 2010 at Adventist Medical Center in Portland, OR following a brief illness. He was born Feb. 16, 1924, in Bayonne, NJ, where he attended public schools. At 16, he met Helen Meyers, also of Bayonne, and their romance blossomed during their high school years. After serving in the U.S. Navy Submarine Service from 1941 to 1945, he returned to Bayonne. He and Helen were married in December 1947 and their first child, Carol, was born in 1952. Three sons: Wil, Jim and Jon - followed at regular intervals. During the 1950s, he worked in sales and took night classes at Rutgers University, earning his degree in 1956. He was the first in his family to attend college and he deeply believed in the power of education to change lives. He was known for his intelligence and wit. No cross-word puzzle was ever too hard for him. In 1962 his employer, National Starch and Chemical Co., offered him the opportunity to develop a sales territory in the Pacific Northwest, and the family relocated to Vancouver. Over the next 24 years, he pursued a successful career in industrial sales, retiring in 1986. He and Helen moved to the Vista del Rio retirement community in 1989. The joys of recent years have included the marriages of their children and the births of their beloved grandchildren. Bill and Helen's nearly 63-year marriage was characterized by an unwavering devotion to each other. Friends, lovers and life partners, theirs was a true and happy union in every sense. In addition to Helen, he is survived by his sister, Irene Olszewski of Jersey City, NJ; daughter, Carol Van Natta (Robert Burdick) of

Portland; sons, Wil of West Palm Beach, FL, Jim (Teresa) of Hockinson, WA, and Jon (Eleanor) of Ridgefield, WA; and seven grandchildren: Trevor, Caitlin, Erica, Claire, Justin, Erin Rose, and Rhiann. He will be profoundly missed by them all.

# Tribute Wall



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