
Lowell Carr Parode(1924 - 2017)

October 27, 1924 - December 25, 2017 Lowell Parode passed away on Christmas Day 2017 having celebrated Christmas Eve with his three children and their families. Born the oldest son of Harry John and Maizie Modesta Parode in Los Angeles, California, Lowell attended Dorsey High School and obtained a BS in Electrical Engineering at California Institute of Technology in 1945. He was commissioned an ensign in the Naval Reserve, receiving an honorable discharge in 1946, after which he obtained a MS in Meteorology at Cal Tech in 1947. While in graduate school, one of his instructors was Simon Ramo (later of TRW) who recruited Lowell to Hughes Aircraft Company's new electronics department in Culver City, California. Over his 42 year career, Lowell worked on cutting edge projects such as radar technology, guided missiles, satellite tracking, communications satellites (which had limited capabilities until Hughes had breakthroughs in that field in the 1980's) and other communications systems. He held various management positions and worked at several of the Hughes facilities around Southern California. The highlight of his career was being a part of the leadership team for the Ku Band communications subsystem of the Space Shuttle; he enjoyed attending several launches after the system went on board the Shuttle in 1983. It was an exciting era in communications development and Lowell worked on much of it with enthusiasm. In 1946, Lowell married Sabine Phelps, a fellow Christian Scientist, and his family soon included of three children. Lowell built a home in Manhattan Beach, California in 1954 then built another home in Malaga Cove, Palos Verdes Estates, where he lived from the day JFK was elected in 1960 until 2012 when he moved to the Canterbury, a residential community in Rancho Palos Verdes. Sabine passed on in 1998 after which he met and married Dorene Beatty to whom he was very happily married until her death in November, 2017. At every stage of his life, Lowell was the bedrock of his family. Lowell was a true Southern Californian in his love of driving new American cars on the budding road systems of the United States and California. His attraction to street and Long Beach Speedway racing of his 1956 Plymouth Fury was cooled by his family responsibilities. So while his children were school age, he took an annual family road trip to America's National Parks and historical cities where the family visited famous monuments and enjoyed the beauty of their country. Lowell's strongest lifelong love was backpacking and trout fishing in the California Sierras with family and friends. He was one of the first adopters of dehydrated food which ultimately got edible. The family experienced the joys of mountain pan-fried trout in the day when there was a take limit but you could actually take. He decided that the family should learn to ski in the early 1960's and they were early visitors to June Mountain and later regulars for years at Mammoth Mountain. Lowell played tennis at the Palos Verdes Tennis Club well in to his 80's and had many friends throughout the Peninsula. He loved Catalina Capers with his sailing buddies where they would charter a yacht, sail to King Harbor, play tennis and relax for a weekend. After his retirement, he and Sabine enjoyed traveling abroad for several years before Sabine's health deteriorated. Over all, Lowell enjoyed the best of living and working in Southern California after the Second World War. Lowell was predeceased by his parents and his brother, Harlan. He is survived by his children, Ann Dynes (husband Robert), Mark Parode (wife Linda), Lynne Parode (husband Sterling Lim), his grandson Miles Lim, his sister-in-law Helen, and several nieces and nephews. Services have been scheduled for January 13, 2018 at 11 a.m. at the Neighborhood Church, 415 Paseo del Mar, Palos Verdes Estates. His ashes will be scattered in the Pacific Ocean he loved. Although unnecessary, donations in his memory can be made to the Neighborhood Church which is where he married Dory, where both Sabine's and Dory's memorial services were also held, and to which he wrote his last check. Great thanks to the staff at The Canterbury whose professional attention to Lowell in this last year has been extraordinary.



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