



Arthur Hubert Bowden

June 24, 1926 - November 20, 2024

Arthur Hubert Bowden passed away on November 20, 2024 at the age of 98. He was born June 24, 1926 in Flint, Michigan to Rhoda (Thomas) Bowden and William Thomas Bowden who emigrated from Redruth, Cornwall, England in the 1920's. After graduating from Flint Central High School he joined the US Navy and served in the Philippines and in the protection of Mios Woendi island, (nicknamed "Windy" Island) in New Guinea.

In 1950 he wed Peggy Joyce DeVore and shortly thereafter founded Mr. Seat Cover on Court St, a business born of Flint's connection to the auto industry. In 1968 he opened King Arthur's Pasties on Third Avenue in Flint employing his children, their friends, his nieces and nephews, young neighbors living near the shop and even his "mum". There are a raft of stories from so many who spent time making pasties alongside "King" Arthur.

An unexpected twist of fate landed him in San Francisco in 1978 and King Arthur's SF was launched in the South of Market District, at 3rd Street and Brannon. The shop became a favorite in the then-burgeoning area known as China Basin. It operated until 1986. The property a block away was later developed into the ballpark for the San Francisco Giants, Oracle Stadium.

In 1994 he married Gloria Bailey and moved to the Montclair neighborhood in Oakland. For a decade he and Gloria enjoyed frequent trips in their Toyota

camping van, accompanied by Temmie, their adopted stray dog turned best friend, to locales up and down the West coast, visiting friends and family in San Diego, Vancouver and points in between.

After Gloria's passing in late March 2014, his lucky number was drawn for admission to reside at the Veterans Home of California, where he'd hoped to live his later years.

He enjoyed eight months there acting and singing in community plays, taking classes and enjoying baseball games at the diamond on the lush grounds of the campus. He'd hit the jackpot. He formed fast friendships with those he acted alongside and with neighbors.

In the last decade after suffering a stroke he continued to thrive due to his remarkable positive outlook, love for his family, friends and those entrusted with his care. His Veterans Home caregivers became friends.

During his time in Yountville, family from Boston and Michigan, along with local family gathered often to celebrate birthdays and holidays and Art was feted and regaled by an impromptu (albeit professional) music group; son Dan on guitar, nieces Emma and Juliette singing and stepson-in-law Jim also playing guitar. He beamed with pride hearing the musical magic made by his talented family.

Art was predeceased by his parents, mother-in-law, Lillian (Bobbie) DeVore, siblings Iris Smith, Norman Thomas Bowden, Eileen McComb, nieces Marilyn Smith and Cathy Bell, nephews Larry and Dennis Smith. He is survived by daughters Darcy Bowden (Merle Kramer) and Lori Bowden Christopher (John), son Dan Bowden (Caroline) and stepdaughter Susan Bailey Perrito (James) and his grandchildren, Calum Bowden, Chloe Bowden, Emma Christopher and Juliette Christopher, nephews, Robert McComb and James Smith, Tom Bowden and nieces Janice Hendrix and Cindy Cole. Also by those who consider him "grandfather": Matthew Johnson, Julia (Freeland)

Barkhausen, Rebecca (Freeland) Fisher and Dru Bailey.

The family is grateful to the many friendly, compassionate and skilled caregivers who helped our dad along the way including Mira McGilvrey and Dr. Teshome.

Cemetery Details

Veterans Home Cemetery

Yountville, CA 94599

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

SB

“ One of Art’s dear friends was Pete Dale and his wonderful wife Sally-Ann. Pete was from Cornwall and Sally was from South Africa and England, I believe. Art met Pete when he came in to King Arthur’s Pastey’s in San Francisco. They became very close friends for many years, and often visited or phoned Art when he moved to the VA home.

Susan Bailey-Perito - January 12, 2025 at 10:18 PM

SD

“ Arthur and his wife, Gloria, were long time friends of the Dale family. Being of Cornish ancestry my husband, Peter, and Arthur connected in the 1980's during a stop for lunch at Arthur's cafe "King Arthur's Pasties" in San Francisco. We joined the California Cornish Cousins, attending many events. One fun memorable meeting was held in Victoria, Canada when student bunk beds were made available to us !
Sallianne Dale

Sallianne Dale - January 11, 2025 at 02:14 AM

CE

“ Art and Gloria were our dear friends. We considered them to be family. Art and my dad Peter were buddies. My dad passed away in April, 2024. My mom and I had the opportunity to visit Arthur in September at the Veteran's Home in Yountville. He was very happy to see us and we had a wonderful visit. He was visibly sad about my dad's passing, they were pals. They are together again! Rest in paradise Art, we will never forget you. ~Love, The Evans Family

cevans - January 11, 2025 at 12:12 AM