



## James "Walt" Blackmon

July 30, 1936 - June 5, 2026

James "Walt" Blackmon found peace after a life well lived on June 5, 2026. Born on July 30, 1936, in Temple, Texas, Walt spent his early years in Texas before moving to Vallejo, California, at the age of seven when his father came to work at Mare Island Shipyard during the war effort.

Growing up in the Chabot Acres neighborhood, Walt formed many lifelong friendships that he cherished throughout his life. He married his childhood sweetheart, Beverly Reale, in 1955, beginning a loving partnership that would span many decades.

Together, Walt and Beverly raised their children: Desiree Brewer (Kenny), Michael Blackmon (Denise), Michelle Fowler (Mikie), LaDonna Harding (Tom), Robin Highshoe (Rob), and Mirijana Balija. Family was everything to Walt, and he took great pride in watching his family grow through the generations. He was blessed with 21 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren.

In 1957, Walt began working for Joe Bell at Bell Products in Napa. In 1964 through hard work, dedication, and integrity, he eventually became an owner of the company where he spent 60 years. Walt considered his employees part of his extended family and was respected for his kindness, generosity, and unwavering commitment to those around him.

Walt and Beverly shared a love story that spanned a lifetime. After marrying in 1955, they continued to celebrate their commitment to one another by exchanging vows and marrying each other again in several special places around the world. Their marriage was built on love, friendship, adventure, and unwavering devotion. Together they traveled extensively with family and friends, creating cherished memories that will live on for generations. One of Walt's favorite places was Baja, Mexico, where he especially enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

Walt was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Beverly; his parents, Sam and Kate Blackmon; his sisters, Ruby and "E"; his brothers, Ray and Sam Jr.; his son-in-law, Kenny; and his daughter Mirijana.

The family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to the many caregivers who provided Walt with exceptional care and compassion, as well as to Providence Hospice Napa Valley for their support and kindness.

Walt's kindness, generosity, love of family, and enduring friendships leave a legacy that will live on in the hearts of all who knew him. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered forever.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Providence Hospice Napa Valley at 414 S. Jefferson, Napa, CA 94559.

Viewing: Thursday, June 25, 2026, from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Treadway & Wigger Funeral Chapel, 2383 Napa-Vallejo Highway, Napa, CA 94558.

Interment: Private.

Celebration of Life: Saturday, June 27, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at

the Napa Elks Lodge, 2840 Soscol Avenue, Napa, CA 94558. James "Walt"  
Blackmon

# Upcoming Events

## Viewing

JUN **25**. 3:00 PM (PT)

Treadway & Wigger Funeral Chapel  
2383 Napa-Vallejo Highway  
Napa, CA 94558

## Celebration of Life

JUN **27**. 12:00 PM.

Napa Elks Lodge