



Charles Nathan Willess

August 8, 1932 - November 4, 2024

Charles Nathan "Cordwood" Willess, a revered family man, respected professional, and devoted servant to his faith, passed away peacefully on November 4, 2024, in Vista, CA, at the age of 92. Born on August 8, 1932, in Rockwall, TX, Charles was a beacon of strength and kindness to all who knew him, leaving behind a legacy of love and service.

Charles is survived by his beloved wife of 72 years, Dorothy May Grable, with whom he built a life filled with joy and purpose. Their enduring partnership was blessed with children Pandora Gayle Meregus (Albert) of Lemon Grove, CA, Debra Kay Means (Steve) of Myrtle Point, OR, and Nathan Charles Willess of Athens, TX. He was a cherished grandfather to Nicholas (Kayla), Alex (Leah), Chase, Paul (Courtney), and Brittany (Cameron) Jennings and a proud great-grandfather to Juliette, Daisy, Charles, Colten, Marie, and Marcus. His sister, Janice (Johnny) Johnson of Rockwall, TX, also survives him. Charles was preceded in death by his parents, James Homer Willess and Melissa Pearl Passons, as well as his siblings, James Leon, Homer Leroy, Henry Francis, John Raymond, Walter Fred, Thomas Allen, Albert Lynn, Dorothy Dunn, Lucille Motley, Ethel Willess, Vivian Willess, and Mary Seay.

Charles's life was one marked by dedication and service. He married the love of his life, Dorothy May Grable, on May 3, 1952, in San Diego, CA. Shortly thereafter, he served his country with honor in the US Navy during the Korean

War. Following his military service, Charles embarked on a distinguished career in land surveying. His commitment to his profession led him to become a San Diego Chapter Representative and State Board Director for the California Land Surveyors Association, as well as a member of the National Society of Professional Surveyors. He was also an active participant in the Rotary Club of Vista, CA, and the Vista Elks Lodge, where he furthered his community engagement and philanthropic efforts.

Beyond his professional and community involvement, Charles was a man of many interests. He had a passion for woodworking, creating beautiful pieces that are cherished by his family and friends. His love for the outdoors was evident in his enthusiasm for hiking and camping, activities that he enjoyed well into his later years. Charles's dedication to his faith was unwavering, as he continued shaping his relationship with Jesus Christ throughout his life. Bowling was another pastime that brought Charles great joy, allowing him moments of camaraderie and friendly competition.

Charles "Cordwood" Willess will be remembered not only for his achievements but also for his generous spirit, his steadfast faith, and his unwavering commitment to his family. He was a man who lived his values, shaped by his experiences and the landscapes he so loved to survey. His was a life well-lived, full of purpose, and guided by a deep sense of responsibility to his fellow man.

As we bid farewell to Charles, we celebrate a life that was rich in love, laughter, and lasting memories. His legacy will continue to inspire those who were fortunate enough to know him, and his influence will be felt for generations to come. Charles Nathan Willess was truly a man of honor and will be profoundly missed by all.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life / Prayer Service

NOV **22**. 10:00 AM (PT)

Magallón Funeral Home
1421 North Santa Fe Avenue
Vista, CA 92084
(760) 522-3356
magallonfuneraldirectors@gmail.com
<http://www.magallonfuneralhome.com>

Committal Service / Military Honors

DEC **5**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Rest Haven Memorial Park
2500 TX66
Rockwall, TX 75087

Tribute Wall

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“ I worked for Chuck as a Land surveyor in Vista California. The main thing I remember about Chuck is that he was a man of integrity. I admired him for his adherence to high standards. I remember his dedication to "doing the right thing" for everyone. He taught me a lot about Surveying and life in general.

I will always remember his generosity and love of God. Thank you Chuck for being a role model for me.

Karen Koklich

Karen - December 23, 2024 at 02:46 PM