

WARD ARTHUR CAVANAUGH



Ward Arthur Cavanaugh passed away on May 22, 2024, surrounded by loving family, in Silver Spring, Maryland. He was preceded in death by his dear wife, Mary Lyda Cavanaugh, by his parents, Helen (Gray) Cavanaugh and Jesse M. Cavanaugh, his sister Elizabeth Cavanaugh Shaw Fridley, and stepson Steven Koykar.

His life's journey brought him from the East to the West—and a number of points in between. Born in Saratoga Springs, New York, he graduated from Saratoga Springs High School as a winner of the school's Yaddo Medal. He earned his B.Mgmt. in Industrial Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1952. Ward proudly served his country as a First Lieutenant in the United States Army during the Korean War, returning to earn an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in 1959.

Ward's professional career began as a staff industrial engineer at Alcoa and then to a post as financial analyst for Texas Instruments. He later served as a vice president at Schroder Rockefeller Company in New York City. A deep recognition of his financial expertise came with his appointment as Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer for American Greetings Corporation in Cleveland, Ohio. After serving for nearly a decade in that role he was named Vice President of Finance for The Lionel Corporation in New York City. Lured back to the greeting card industry, he closed his professional career as Chief Financial Officer of Gibson Greeting Cards Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.

He retired to San Diego, California—a place he loved and which inspired him for its amazing natural beauty—to fully enjoy a life of love, family and travel with his wife, Mary.

Ward is survived by his children, Louise Cavanaugh Sciannameo (Franco), Mark Cavanaugh, and Duncan Cavanaugh (Mary Margaret) from his first marriage to Elizabeth Whalen Cavanaugh; and his grandchildren Nicholas James Sciannameo (Amanda) and Lily Eileen Cavanaugh. He is also survived by stepchildren Kevin Koykar (Nadine), Jeff Koykar Sr. (Kim), Kristy Sadeghi (Majid), and Mike Koykar; as well as sister-in-law Susan E. Barnum, brother-in-law Wayne D. Smart, Jr.; nephew, Christopher Shaw, and many step grandchildren.

Throughout his days, his love, generosity, true-grit determination, deep sense of fun and humor, and a truly endless desire to explore and learn about the beauty and challenges of this world informed his life and will continue to serve as an example and an inspiration.

Ward will rest in Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery in Saratoga Springs, New York. Details of that ceremony and a celebration of his life will be forthcoming.

Ward was a quiet and significant philanthropist for a number of causes, passions, and people that were close to his heart. In that spirit, the family suggests considering contributions to Yaddo; the Little Italy Association of San Diego; or the Tunnel to Towers Foundation.

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