



Ken Capen

11/2/1924 to 1/28/2016

Ken was born in Seattle, Washington, moved to California when he was five, and grew up in San Leandro. In 1943 he was drafted into the Army and sent to the U. of New Hampshire for a year to study engineering. Then he was assigned to the 78th Infantry Division which went through the Battle of the Bulge, crossed the Rhine over the Remagen Bridge and occupied Bremen, Germany. He returned to the U.S. in 1946 when he and Shirley were married. He received his B.S. in Business Administration at UC Berkeley in 1948. He then worked for the Arabian American Oil Company in personnel management in Saudi Arabia and Libya. He, Shirley, and their five children lived in the Middle East for 13 years. Back in the U.S. Ken worked at Hewlett-Packard in personnel management. He is an outdoor enthusiast and enjoyed many back packing trips in to the Sierras. He volunteered as a docent at the Ano Nuevo Elephant Seal Reserve, the Pigeon Point Light House and Filoli Gardens.



Shirley Capen

5/30/1925 to 1/18/2015

Shirley was born in Berkeley but soon moved to San Leandro. She met Ken in grammar school, and they dated in high school. While in high school, Shirley became concert mistress of the Oakland Young Peoples' Symphony. She attended San Jose State, but dropped out when Ken returned from the war. While Ken earned his degree at UC Berkeley, Shirley worked at the admissions office. She later finished her education in Early Childhood and Special Education. Her time was spent raising five children, making homes in several countries and traveling. Back in the U.S., she continued her music, teaching and playing in orchestras. She also volunteered at several Head Start Programs.