



## George H. Merritt

August 1, 2018

George “Bud” Harrison Merritt

George Harrison Merritt, 96, of Naples FL and Old Lyme CT, passed away on August 1, 2018. George was born in Pittsfield MA on December 6, 1921, son of Ethel (Martin) Merritt and Laurence Hobart Merritt. He graduated from Pittsfield High School in 1939 and Holy Cross College, Class of 1943, with a B.A. in Economics. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, serving as a lieutenant from 1943 to 1945. He chose a career in advertising, marketing and public relations. He worked with American Optical Co. and Travelers Insurance Co. before accepting a position with Milton Bradley Co. (Hasbro) where he worked from 1966 until his retirement in 1992 as Vice President of Advertising and Public Relations.

During his working years, George also became an instructor in the Dale Carnegie Course which he taught throughout New England for over 30 years. He also taught advertising and marketing courses at Western New England College, University of Massachusetts, University of Hartford, Hartford YMCA, Springfield Technical College, and Holyoke Community College.

George was a member of the Public Relations Society of America, the Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts, the Holy Cross Alumni Association, and a Director of the Connecticut Red Cross Blood Program. He

was a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus, and served as a lector both at St. Peter Claver Church in West Hartford CT and St. William Church in Naples FL. He was active in the Blood Drive program at the Vineyards in Naples, where he was also an active golf member of the Vineyards Country Club. In 2011, George began his volunteer work with Avow Hospice, providing marketing support for their fundraising efforts, care & compassion for end-of-life patients, and administering communion as a Eucharistic minister to their families. In 2013, George was the recipient of Avow's coveted "Butterfly Award" – which honors "a person who has taken the personal loss of losing a loved one and channeled that loss into making end-of-life care better for others."

In 1945, George married Marion F. Loftus with whom he raised ten children. They made their home at 19 LeMay Street in West Hartford for 33 years before retiring to the Vineyards in Naples FL in 1992. They spent their summers at their home in Old Lyme CT which they bought in 1968. George was predeceased by his wife, Marion, in 2008. He was also predeceased by his oldest son, Andrew, in 1984 and his grandson, Paul Rowean Jr., in 1985.

George is survived by nine children: Kathy Amenta; Connie Merritt and her husband Greg Fitzgerald; Judy Rowean and her husband Paul; Jean Linderman and her husband John; Polly Maglio and her husband Gary; Larry Merritt and his partner Michael McLaughlin; Chip Merritt and his wife Luanne; Martin Merritt; and Matthew Merritt and his wife Jennifer. He also leaves 17 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Friends and relatives are welcome to call on the family on Sunday, August 5, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave., West Hartford. Funeral services will be Monday, August 6 with the celebration of his Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00 a.m. at St. Peter Claver Church, 47 Pleasant St., West Hartford. Burial with military honors will follow in Fairview Cemetery.

Online expressions of sympathy may be made at [www.molloyfuneralhome.com](http://www.molloyfuneralhome.com). In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in George's name may be made to Avow Hospice, 1095 Whippoorwill Lane, Naples FL 34105.

"When you are sorrowful, look again in your heart – you shall see that, in truth, you are weeping for that which has been your delight."

# Cemetery Details

## Fairview Cemetery

200 Whitman Ave.  
West Hartford, CT

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

AUG 5. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home  
906 Farmington Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06119  
(860) 232-1322

## Mass of Christian Burial

AUG 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Peter Claver Church  
47 Pleasant St  
West Hartford, CT

# Tribute Wall

Jl

“ On behalf of the management and staff of Vineyards Country Club, our sincere condolences to his family and friends. Mr. Merritt was an integral part of Vineyards Country Club for many years and passionate in his facilitation of the Vineyards Blood Drive for the NCH Blood Mobile. Vineyards Country Club is honored to make a donation to Avow Hospice in Naples in his name.

Jlnman - August 13, 2018 at 08:36 AM

ML

“ My thoughts and prayers are extended to the entire Merritt family at this difficult time. With deepest sympathy,

Mark Laudenberger

Mark Laudenberger - August 12, 2018 at 04:04 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of George H. Merritt.



August 05, 2018 at 07:54 AM

GD

“ *To All The Merritts*

*It is with sadness that I send sincere condolences on George's recent passing. Both George and Marion were loyal Hall High School parents and raised an outstanding family. Both were active in the community and church. George has left an extended legacy in West Hartford, Old Lyme and Naples, FL for family and friends to emulate and carry on.*

*In 1962 when Bob and I were awarded a two-week trip to England sponsored by The Hartford Courant and The Birmingham (England) Mail, we got to know George especially well, because he had been assigned to take care of all our needs. It goes without saying that he did a memorable job!*

*Were he with us, Bob would echo my thoughts of honoring George for all he did in his long life and many careers. In his retirement his volunteer work left the world a much better place for so many.*

*With much sympathy and love.*

*Gladys B. Dunn*

---

**Gladys B. Dunn** - August 04, 2018 at 09:06 PM

CL

“ *I will always remember George as a warm, friendly and kind man, with a great sense of humor. We have exchanged Christmas cards, with updates on the past year, for many years. I will miss him.*

*Chuck Long*

---

**Chuck Long** - August 04, 2018 at 06:56 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of George H. Merritt.*



---

August 04, 2018 at 06:55 PM



“ *To the Merritt children,*

*Our hearts and thoughts are with you on the passing of your Dad. Your parents certainly did a wonderful job raising their 10 children. We enjoyed knowing you during your formative years at Conard High School. (I, Suzi, am particularly fond of the time shared with you, Jean, as you were so reflective in your questions and search for meaning). May you continue to carry on the legacy of your loving parents.*

*With deepest sympathy,  
Frank and Suzi D'Annolfo*

---

**Suzi D'Annolfo** - August 04, 2018 at 06:31 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories*



---

**John & Jane** - August 04, 2018 at 04:02 PM

LL

“ Love, Carol and Steven Levenherz purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of George H. Merritt.



---

**Love, Carol and Steven Levenherz** - August 04, 2018 at 11:10 AM

SL

“ To the entire Merritt Clan....

*George and Marion Merritt were mentors to Carol and me. A Case Study of Family rearing, perseverance and companionship with the end game being raising their 10 children to be hard working, honest with high integrity, compassionate, charitable and loving teaching as much by example as with words.*

*Our goal was to raise our family using the lessons learned from our association with them. We are deeply saddened to hear of George's passing but know his wish was to return to his beloved wife Marion where he will be greeted with open arms and a twinkling eye at the gates of heaven with a freshly baked casserole.*

*His teachings will last far beyond his years.*

*Steven and Carol Levenherz*

---

**Steven Levenherz** - August 04, 2018 at 10:05 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of George H. Merritt.*



---

August 04, 2018 at 08:23 AM



“ *I am deeply saddened by the loss of your Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather. My sincere condolences to the entire Merritt family. May He Rest In Peace.*

*Daniel M Schiavone  
Brett A Gordon  
Old Lyme, Ct*

---

**Daniel M. Schiavone** - August 03, 2018 at 06:41 PM



“ *We are very sadden for the passing of George, our heartfelt Condolences to the whole Merritt family  
Peter and Marie*

---

**Peter Murray** - August 03, 2018 at 05:06 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of George H. Merritt.*



---

August 03, 2018 at 04:09 PM

EF

“ Dear Merritt Clan, Sending our heartfelt condolences on the loss of this great man. "Bud" was truly an OLS icon, a man of great faith, and dedication to service. Our families share a special bond and I know that my parents were waiting to welcome him, along with his beloved Marion, at the pearly gates. Gob bless, -Ed Francoeur

---

**Edward Francoeur** - August 03, 2018 at 03:53 PM

TM

“ I am very sadden by your loss. I knew George for the past 24 years working here at the Vineyards as there Director of Golf. George was very active with his golf group the Buzzard's. He enjoyed his golf and better yet he enjoyed playing with the many friends he had here at the Vineyards. George worked closely with Sandy McClain on the Vineyards blood drives. He was a dedicated volunteer that you could not say no to. He almost by himself got the blood drive to be very successful. I was one of his best donors and I think that pleased him. he will be sorely missed and I will be forever grateful to have known such a great man. We need more men like George Merritt. God has him now.

Sincerely,

Tom Metzger

---

**Tom Meetzger** - August 03, 2018 at 01:14 PM

CM

“ I send my heartfelt condolences to you all. Mr. Merritt has a special place in my heart, and I will greatly miss my dear friend. Mr. Merritt started the Vineyards Community Blood Drives nearly 2 decades ago in Naples, FL with the NCH Community Blood Center. He was passionate about saving lives and truly inspired many people to come to the blood drives. He volunteered many, many hours to ensure that he had what he thought was an acceptable number of blood donors to attend his blood drives. His legacy continues and with 3,369 total blood donations thus far he and his donors have helped 10,107 people celebrate a second day of life! I fondly remember Mr. Merritt in his red donor day attire, the blood drop stained glass pins he made us, along with the donors saying "I am here today for George because we know how much this means to him." Mr. Merritt meant so much to me and all of the NCH Community Blood Center staff. We shall never forget our amazing friend Mr. Merritt and will cherish our fond memories of him.

*Laura Rosen, Naples FL*

---

**Chris Molloy** - August 03, 2018 at 11:11 AM

CM

“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



---

**Chris Molloy** - August 03, 2018 at 10:12 AM

CM

*Photo's shared by Laura Rosen of Naples, FL*

---

**Chris Molloy** - August 03, 2018 at 11:13 AM

LD

“ *Sending love and prayers to all. The kids, Mom and I have fond memories of George checking in on my Dad and enjoying sweet conversation in the afternoons. I can still visualize him doing leg lifts and fussing at my Dad that he needed to do them as well. I trust they are enjoying conversation and friendship in Heaven. Much love, Linda, Louise, Lee, and Lucie.*

---

**Louise Dover** - August 02, 2018 at 08:01 PM

LP

“ *love you all, Kathy and Rich Pniewski purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of George H. Merritt.*



---

**love you all, Kathy and Rich Pniewski** - August 02, 2018 at 06:42 PM