



## Vernon Alois Novak

December 23, 1923 - October 21, 2020

Vernon was born in Reedsville, WI, to Louis Novak, a lumberjack, and Marie Josephine (nee. Armbruster), a bookkeeper. He attended Cook Avenue School, where he graduated 8th grade with about 50 classmates, who became lifelong friends. Then he graduated Calumet High School, Morgan Park Jr. College, and Woodbury School of Business with a degree in Accounting.

Growing up during the Great Depression of 1929–1939, he learned to work hard to help maintain his family in tough times. Starting around age twelve, he rose before dawn to work a long paper route in good and bad weather. Other jobs included weeding onions (to pay for Boy Scout camp) and delivering goods from the rail station after he'd delivered the coal to heat it. He also learned to play the violin and was usually busy after school with friends, exploring and building things. Once, he and best friend Jerry Hermann built a go-cart with plywood and Jerry's little sister Marie's "borrowed" roller skate wheels. They even harnessed a dog to pull it. With Jerry's engineering skills still being under development, the braking system wasn't quite up to code. But they all survived the crash. Later Vernon made it up with Marie, who forgave him and went on to marry him while stationed in 1944 at Pampa, TX during a choir practice break. That short wedding ceremony led to a 66-year-long, happy marriage.

Vernon served in the U.S. Armed Forces from 1942–1945 and the U.S. Army Reserve Corps from 1945–1950 in Chicago, IL. At age 19, he joined the U.S. Navy as an Aviation Cadet in Chicago, IL. He transferred to the U.S. Army Air Corps and learned to pilot B-25 and B-26 bombers. 2nd Lt. V. A. Novak was preparing to fly his crew to the Pacific Front in 1945, about two weeks before WWII ended.

He started the Oak Lawn Book & Hobby Shop in Illinois (1945–1955), and then moved his family to California, working as an accountant (1956–1986). In retirement he particularly enjoyed spending time with family and friends, golfing, traveling, and as a hospital transportation and ministry accountant volunteer. Most of all, he enjoyed his relationship with his Savior Jesus Christ, that began mid-life through listening to Dr. J. Vernon McGee's

Back to the Bible radio program. He dearly loved his family, including those who predeceased him (his parents, wife Marie, brother Lee, and sister-in-law Dorothy) and survivors: daughter Lynne Govers (Richard); daughter Pam Burtch (Philip); grandson Andrew Govers (Rhonda); granddaughter Paula Hasanali (Shabbir); great grandchildren Natalie, Vivian, and Forrest Govers and Sarah, Alex, and Sabrina Hasanali; nieces, Bonnie Novak and Pattie Sugrue, nephews Tom Novak and Ken Novak, and their families. Vernon's Savior, family, and his many dear friends were the joy of his life. He prayed every day for his family and friends, for Christian ministries, and for God's perfect will to be done. He was deeply grateful to God for the indispensable people, who helped him throughout his life. Most recently, these include Drs. Dennis Oliver, Sridhar Beeram, Allen Baum, Hung Cheung, Steven Davis, Patrick Brown, Clayton Hudnall, Seth Fritcher, Ann Marie Kiesow, and James Warren. Their skill and compassion cannot be overpraised. He is likewise grateful for Patriot Heights because of Saleta Chatterton and all the wonderful staff there. Finally, he gives thanks for the exceptional skill and compassion of his VITAS Hospice team: Natalia, Patrick, Cesar, Christina, Louis, Lucy, and Rob. They all took care of him so well.

Private burial will be at the Ft. Sam Houston Columbarium along with his beloved Marie, prepared by Mission Park North.

Vernon would be most happy to be remembered by your prayers or money for helping needy people through ministries such as Samaritan's Purse, the Salvation Army, or In Touch Ministries, or, locally, One Way International, or Child Evangelism Fellowship.

# Cemetery

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## **Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery**

1520 Harry Wurzbach

San Antonio, TX, 78209

# Comments

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“ Pam, Philip & the rest of the family: May the Holy Spirit give you peace & comfort as you adjust to the earthly absence of him. He was always such an upbeat person because of his close relationship with his Savior: he knew Who controls things, & was perfectly content with that. Love in Him, Dianne Johnson

**Dianne Johnson** - November 05, 2020 at 10:09 PM