

Howard's obituary

Howard Lee of Westlake Village, CA, died on April 27, 2022. He was 87.

Howard had received emergency surgery for digestive issues, and was recovering steadily. He then succumbed to a sudden turn of events. Howard was surrounded by his immediate family. Howard was the consummate family man, and devoted husband. He was unwavering in his commitment to high morals, work ethic, and family values. He steadily held this course through love, life, family and his career. His love and caring was reciprocated by everyone he touched in his long life.

Howard was born on March 9th, 1935 in the city of Los Angeles. He graduated from South Gate High School in 1953. After graduation, Howard became an Ocean Lifeguard for the County of Los Angeles. He also attended Compton Junior College where he played varsity football. Howard loved playing football, and was recruited by Division 1 universities. But, later in 1953, his college and lifeguard career were interrupted by the Korean War. Howard was drafted into the US Army. He was honorably discharged in 1956 after serving at Fort Ord (Ca) and Fort Bragg (NC).

Howard came home and immediately returned to work as a lifeguard in Hermosa Beach. He accepted a Permanent Ocean Lifeguard position later that same year. Howard was then transferred to Zuma Beach in Malibu. It was at Zuma where he met his wife Phyllis. They were married in 1959. The couple welcomed their first son, Jeff in 1960, and their second son, Greg in 1961. Howard ascended the ranks of the Los Angeles County Lifeguard's first becoming Lieutenant (1966), then Captain (1972). He was promoted to Chief Lifeguard in 1975, at the age of 39. He retired from service in 1990 after 37 years. Howard was very passionate and dedicated to his career as a beach lifeguard. Not just locally. He traveled across the United States, and to Australia and New Zealand on educational and competitive teams. He represented the Los Angeles County Lifeguard service and the United States Lifesaving Association espousing the importance of professionalism, physical fitness and camaraderie within the profession. Upon his retirement, the United States Lifesaving Association named a perpetual trophy for the annual national team championship in his honor.

Once retired, Howard lived in Westlake Village, nestled up against the Santa Monica Mountains. Howard and Phyllis spent the next few years exploring every salty beach town on the west coast. They thought about relocating but

realized they would rather stay in Westlake, close to family and their only grandson. Howard spent his time exercising and landscaping his beautiful home. Of course his cars were always immaculate!

He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Phyllis. His two sons, Jeffrey Howard (61) and Terri, Gregory Charles (60) and Jill, along with his only Grandson, Samuel Howard (27). Additionally, Howard is survived by his two brothers, Don Lee and his wife Mabel of Murietta, and Larry Lee and his wife Debra of Palm Springs. There is also a robust list of nieces and nephews.