



### **Dr. Gerald L. Hodgson, 1917-2015 -**

Dr. Gerald L. Hodgson passed away in his home on Nov. 22, 2015. He was 98 years old. Wood Family Funeral Service handled the arrangements. He was preceded in death by his wife of 50 years, Jane Hodgson, who passed away in 1993. He is survived by his three daughters; Ms. Claire Hammons (Tehachapi, Calif.), Mrs. Alice Cauble (Sublimity, Ore.), and Dr. Carol Hodgson Birkman (Edmonton, AB, Canada). He has seven granddaughters and 14 great-grandchildren.

Gerald was born Aug. 8, 1917, in Muskegon, Mich., to Dorothy and Feno Hodgson. He had one sister, Shirley, and two brothers, Cecil and Norman, all of whom preceded him in death, although he was the eldest child in his family.

Gerald was a retired (1970) dentist and naval officer for 30 years. He retired at the rank of commander with a Navy Unit Commendation with bronze star earned aboard the USS Oriskany, the Vietnam Service Medal with three campaign stars, the Vietnam Campaign Medal and the National Defense Service Medal with bronze star. He was a veteran of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. During his naval career, he traveled all over the globe from San Francisco to India, to Australia, to Japan, and Hong Kong, and all sea in between. As a naval officer, he and his family lived in 26 homes over 50 years, living in Tehachapi since 1973.

Gerald graduated from the University of Michigan, School of Dentistry and completed postgraduate training in prosthodontics. He was an avid fan of U of M football. One of his great joys was when Michigan beat Ohio State in football. He also loved animals. He adopted numerous rescue dogs and cats over the years and is survived by his dog Mickey, who will find a loving home with his daughter Carol and her family. He loved music; he played the piano, accordion, and harmonica. In his younger days he was a very good artist, and an excellent handyman. He built his home in Tehachapi with the help of his wife, Jane, and his two daughters, Claire and Carol. He took great pride in building with a sense of perfection.

He was very healthy and active until his 95th birthday. One of Gerald's greatest qualities was his sense of humor. He had a dry wit, but you knew he had just made a joke when he got his little smile then started laughing. He enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his daughter Claire, who helped care for him over the last 20 years of his life.

He will be buried with full military honors at the Bakersfield National Cemetery of the Veterans Administration, at 30338 E. Bear Mountain Blvd, Arvin, CA 93203, on Dec. 9, 2015, at 12:30 p.m., followed by a reception at The Woods Pavilion at 323 W. F St., Tehachapi, CA 93561, at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the [Angelman Syndrome Foundation](#) for his granddaughter, Jane; or to [Autism Speaks](#) for his great-grandsons, Michael and Eric.

Arrangements were made with the assistance of Wood Family Funeral Service, Inc. For condolences please visit [www.woodmortuary.net](http://www.woodmortuary.net).

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