



Virgil Harton

August 21, 1933 - April 17, 2021

Virgil E. Harton, accomplished architect and artist, died on April 17, 2021 at the age of 87.

Virgil is survived by his brothers, Kermit Harton, Sr. (Esther) and Alan Harton (Karen); his sister Ramona Lesak (Robert); his nephew Glenn Harton; nieces Pamela Fleming (Jim), Sherry Long (David), and Kristine Gasson. He was predeceased by his parents; nephews Kermit Harton, Jr. and Gary Harton; and infant niece Sharon Harton.

Virgil was born on August 21st, 1933 in El Campo, TX to W.S. (Bill) Harton and Esther Smith Harton.

Virgil couldn't remember a time when he wasn't drawing and painting. He graduated from El Campo High School at the age of 16. After two years at Wharton County Junior College he spent the following two years in the Army where he served in Korea, post-war. After receiving his four year degree from the University of Houston he was awarded a scholarship to further his architectural studies, adding a fifth year to his specialized training. Virgil was then employed by Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill (one of the largest and most influential architecture, interior design, engineering, and urban planning firms in the world). He worked in Houston until being transferred to the head office in San Francisco, CA. Being sought

after for his architectural prowess, he accepted an offer from Bechtel Corporation. Virgil retired at 47 to pursue his passion for painting. At that time he moved to his mountain retreat in McCloud, CA.

Virgil was not only sought after for his architectural abilities, but for his artistic talent as well. He was commissioned by The Breakers (Hotel) in Palm Beach, FL, to provide watercolor and prints, including all artwork in The Presidential Suite. Other commissions include The Hearst Foundation (to paint images from Hearst Ranch in CA), as well as The Lavender Farm in Mt. Shasta, CA where he captured the beauty of their product through his artwork used for their product packaging. Virgil's watercolor paintings feature scenes from around the world, as well as sites near his home in McCloud. He also enjoyed the opportunity to teach others by providing private lessons at his art studio.

Locals would be interested to see where Virgil donated his talent to creating and maintaining the beautiful charts for the official recorded rainfall for Danevang. He illustrated the charts with scenes of Danevang including the church, cattle, and cotton fields. The charts are on display at the Danish Heritage Preservation Society in Danevang, TX.

Virgil had an eye for special things which was reflected in his love for the antiques he collected, as well as the many rare books found in his home. Being a world traveler, Virgil was able to gather subject material wherever he went. He was an avid mountain climber in US and Europe, and loved hiking and snow skiing. You could find him camping in the mountains with friends, or enjoying the outdoors alone. No matter where Virgil was, he never forgot his Texas roots. In 2014 Virgil returned to El Campo to be near his family.

Virgil will be laid to rest at the Lutheran Church in Danevang, TX.

Pallbearers are Alan Harton, Glenn Harton, Trey Harton, Bryan Powell, David Long, and Jim Fleming. Honorary Pallbearers are Fred Vitas, Margot Grisson,

Kermit Harton, Sr., Robert Lesak, Kyle Harton, Jacob Harton, and James Gasson.

Visitation and service remembering the life of Virgil Harton will be as follows:

Visitation: Wednesday, April 21st, Triska Funeral Home from 5-7 pm

Funeral Service: Thursday, April 22nd, Danevang Lutheran Church at 2 pm

Memorial donations may be made to Danish Heritage Preservation Society (Danevang) or Houston Hospice-El Campo.

Triska Funeral Home, El Campo, 979-543-3681

Cemetery Details

Danevang Lutheran Cemetery

CR 426
Danevang, TX 77432

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 21. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Triska Funeral Home
612 Merchant Street
El Campo, TX 77437-3440
(979) 543-3681
triskafh@sbcglobal.net

Funeral Service

APR 22. 2:00 PM (CT)

Danevang Lutheran Church
357 Co Rd 426
Danevang, TX 77432

Tribute Wall

NC

“ I met Virgil while staying at a residence club in San Francisco in 1966. I remember him as being very quiet yet charming. I had no idea of how talented he was. Come to think of it, I met him again in an antique store in Bond Street, London, probably in about 1972. I met him a third time when a friend bought two of his paintings of the Grand Canyon. My friend died this past November. Virgil's paintings still hang in her home where her brother now lives.

Nuala Caulfield - April 21, 2024 at 08:13 PM

KA

“ Kari lit a candle in memory of Virgil Harton



kari - April 26, 2021 at 05:44 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Virgil Harton.



April 21, 2021 at 11:00 AM

PW

“ I am thankful to have known Virgil in the early '60's and treasure a beautiful spatula painting which is a gift from him with his signature, Virgil '63. He was such a kind and wonderful man. May he Rest In Peace.



Priscilla S. Wood - April 20, 2021 at 02:45 PM

JB

“ Ramona and Alan and Families: our thoughts and prayers are with you during this very trying time. May your brother Rest In Peace.

Jim and Nancy Brooks - April 20, 2021 at 12:31 PM

TP

“ I remember Virgil from my childhood. He was a kind man, with a giving heart. My Grandmother (Ruth Mitchell) so loved Virgil's parents, Bill and Esther. My Mother (Ramona Mitchell) and Virgil were very close as well, in their younger days. When my children (Clint, Clay, and Cayla Dluhos) graduated from high school, Virgil gifted each of them with copies of his watercolors he did for the Breakers Hotel, and they are so beautiful. Sending prayers for God's Peace and Comfort to embrace Virgil's family during this time, and may they all know that any of us who knew him are Blessed.

Terri Lamberth Pope - April 20, 2021 at 10:40 AM

TA

“ Our prayers and thoughts are with y'all on this difficult time ..
Billy & Tammy Tinney 🙏

tammy - April 19, 2021 at 05:59 PM

LW

“ *Lisa Wilson lit a candle in memory of Virgil Harton*



Lisa Wilson - April 19, 2021 at 02:32 PM

JC

I fondly remember Virgil from my child hood.. I was close friends with Ramona. I was fascinated with her big brother. He was so talented. Love to the whole family.

Jane Clipson - April 20, 2021 at 08:46 AM

EI

My name is Ellen Chritiansen Iacono. My late father's name was Lars Peter Chritiansen , brother of Vergil's mother. I believe Vigil Harton is my first cousin. I have a beautiful watercolor painting of the home of my aunt and uncle signed and dated '73 by Virgil. It was sent to my Mom and Dad on their 50th anniversary along with a photo of my aunt and uncle sitting on the front porch. It is hanging in my living room along with the photo. I cherish it very much.

Ellen Iacono - June 01, 2024 at 10:06 PM