

BECK, Wallace Patrick John (1943)
March 16, 1925 - January 12, 2011

The world has lost a wonderful, kind, generous and fun-loving man with a great sense of humour, who was a fabulous drummer, husband, father, grandfather, son, brother and friend. Wally was predeceased by his 8 year old daughter Nancy on March 16, 1968 and his younger brother Fred on August 11, 1999, age 72. He is survived by his beloved and loving wife of 59 years, Dorothy (nee Kent), daughters Sandra (Joe) Mendes, of Kelowna, Robyn (Joe) Newton, and sons Graham of Edmonton and Andrew (Janice) of North Vancouver, grandchildren Matthew Beck, Daniel and Ashley Mendes, Laurel and Jonathan Newton, Tanner and Wyatt Beck and his youngest brother Raymond Beck.

Born in Vancouver, Wally attended school in Vancouver and Victoria, graduating from Victoria High School in 1943. He enlisted in the artillery and arrived in the United Kingdom in late 1944. He served in the Regina Rifles in Germany, followed by the Canadian Scottish Regiment after D Day. They crossed the Rhine in Germany and headed north. After a fierce house battle at Emerich, they crossed into Holland, being greeted by a jubilant Dutch population. On April 9, 1945, Wally volunteered for patrol to seek out enemy positions between the towns of Deventer and Zutphen in the middle of Holland. He narrowly escaped death when he was struck by an enemy bullet in the upper left arm.

After recovering in Bruges, Belgium, he attended Khaki College in England, and later enrolled in the law faculty at UBC. Wally graduated in 1950, practicing law for 35 years in Vancouver. He was active in a number of associations and committees, including the British Properties Home Owners Association (an early president), the West Vancouver Heritage Committee (6 years), Heritage Hall in Vancouver, and the Lions Club. Wally visited schools as part of the Memory Project of the Canadian Army - Google Wallace P. Beck for site.

Wally was a Boy Scout leader, a founder of the Hot Jazz Society and a drummer for almost every band on the North Shore. He was a proud lifetime member of the Deep Cove Jazz Band. He and Dorothy traveled the world. Primarily focused on his family, Wally injected fun and games into his children's lives and was always available to them. All of his children have been constantly at his side 24 hours a day during his last difficult days of life.

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