



## Roderick Howard Van Horn Sr

February 23, 1921 - November 11, 2018

Husband, father, musician, teacher left this world on November 11, 2018. He was born in Hollywood, CA on February 23, 1921. He was 97 years old. Raised in Santa Paula, CA he was already an avid musician by the time he was in high school. There he was in multiple music groups as well as forming many other groups of his own. More importantly he met the love of his life, Marjorie Bridges to whom he was married for 75 ½ years.

Mr. Van Horn was educated at UCLA and Claremont Mens College. He was a member of Delta Chi Fraternity, Native Sons of the Golden West and DeMolay. At Claremont, he attained his Masters of Music degree. A copy of his Master's thesis was requested by the Library of Congress. Called to duty in WWII, he was a proud member of the U.S. Army Air Corp. While still on active duty, he married his sweetheart on March 21, 1943. She was able to join him and together they were able to work for the cause side by side.

After the war, Mr. and Mrs. Van Horn moved to San Bernardino where he began his teaching career at Highland Jr High School. For the duration of his 30-year career there he gave the gift of music to thousands of students in bands, orchestras and choral groups. He was beloved by all his students and honored them with his outstanding musicianship and brilliant humor.

A working musician since the age of 16, as well as in the Army, Mr. Van Horn continued playing the bass in shows, concerts, orchestras and private affairs.

As bass players for his four-piece band The Notables, Mr. Van Horn performed from Lake Arrowhead to Palm Springs, Las Vegas to Los Angeles, and all points in between.

Mr. Van Horn was a man of extreme intelligence and wonder for all things music, science and art. He never stopped questioning the many aspects of the world and the universe he lived in.

Mr. Van Horn was an exceptional man who loved his family, his country, and his God. He was always ready to help anyone that needed him. He will be remembered by all who knew him.

He is survived by his truly beloved wife of 75 ½ years, Marjorie Ellen, and his adored children, his daughter Lynnette and his son Rod Van Horn Jr., deceased.

We'll meet again-don't know where, don't know when-but we'll meet again.

His memorial service will be on Monday, November 19, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Bobbitt

Memorial Chapel, 1299 E. Highland Ave San Bernardino, CA. To leave an online condolence on Roderick's memorial page please visit [www.bobbittchapel.com](http://www.bobbittchapel.com)

# Events

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**NOV** **Memorial Service** 07:00PM - 08:00PM

**19**

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Bobbitt Memorial Chapel

1299 E Highland Avenue, San Bernardino, CA, US, 92404

# Comments

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“ Rod Van Horn was one of those teacher's and man that you always remember as very special from you school days. I remember him from my Jr. High School Days at Highland Jr. High in 1952, and dancing to his band in subsequent years. He will be missed by many.

Bob Botts

Bob Botts - November 18 at 09:01 AM

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“ Howard Van Horn and my father were college mates at UCLA before WW2, after which they lost contact with one another, only to run into each other again by coincidence in San Bernardino probably around 1957, both now married and with children. The Van Horns are thus the very first of any of my friends. Our two families enjoyed an out-of-the-ordinary mutual friendship unlike any other, and i literally grew up with Lynnette and Roddie. i have so many wonderful memories of Howard for literally my entire life. I was always in awe of him, seriously. Besides the musician per excellence, he was also a mechanical genius. I've thought that about him ever since I was 4. But not just that---his inquiring mind went into so many different areas and he was excellent in them all---physics, chemistry, electronics, ANY subject in academia, ANYTHING--- a consummate Renaissance man if there ever was one. And his sense of humor was always a delight, from the cynical and sardonic (which i absolutely enjoyed) to the humane--- you had to be on your toes to appreciate the sense of irony in his sense of humor. Although his first choice of profession was music, his mechanical and engineering acumen was profound. You could give him a dumpster full of junk and he would be able to construct from that, sight unseen, a working automobile, or a Ferris Wheel, or a guided missile, anything. As a youngster i was a chemistry nerd and whenever i got some new items of equipment or chemicals i would show them to him to get his opinion and approval. You could ask him about anything ---and i never once heard him say "Well, I dont know...." Every New Years we and other friends would all gather at his house to watch the Rose Parade---and not just because the Van Horns were the only ones to have a color TV ! I will miss him certainly, and mourn our loss of such a dear man but i have so many hundreds of wonderful memories of him, that even now the tears are conjoined with smiles and even laughter. Say what you may about this problematic world, but when i look for and find some measure of goodness and sincerity in years that have past, it is partly because Howard was there, living in that same world at the same time. Goodbye (for now) Howard! Sincerely, Daniel Benson

Daniel E. Benson - November 16 at 11:07 PM

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“ Daniel Benson purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Roderick Howard Van Horn Sr.



**Daniel Benson** - November 16 at 08:56 PM

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“ Mr. Van Horn was not only my band teacher at Highland Jr. High in 1961, but I was his student/teacher in 1973 while working on my teaching credentials to be a music teacher. I respected his knowledge and talent, and won't forget what I learned from him. When attending concerts in San Bernardino in the 70's, I was always excited to see him playing the bass; and I would always tell my dates..."I know the bass player." Rest in peace Rod Van Horn.

Ron Lawson  
Trombonist

**Ron Lawson** - November 15 at 03:08 PM