

Life Tributes

The San Diego Union-Tribune

Everlasting
memories
of loved ones

Ronald K. Getoor

February 9, 1929 - October 28, 2017

SAN DIEGO — Ronald Kay Getoor died peacefully at home on October 28, 2017 in La Jolla at the age of 88. Ronald is survived by wife Anne Westbrook Getoor, daughter Lise Getoor of Santa Cruz, CA, brother Richard Getoor of OH, sister Jackie Kuthy of FL, stepchildren Thomas Westbrook and John Westbrook, step-grandchildren Emma, Lilli, Marian, and Philip, niece Donna Beshgetoor, and nieces and nephews in CA, NV, MI, and OH.

Ron was born on February 2, 1929 in Royal Oak, MI, to Karekin Getoor and Ruth Eberle Getoor. After graduating from Royal Oak High School in 1946, Ron attended the University of Michigan where he completed his AB, MS and PhD degrees in mathematics. Ron held academic positions at Princeton and the University of Washington and visiting positions at MIT and Stanford, before joining the Mathematics Department at the University of California, San Diego in 1966. He had a long and distinguished career in research, and was a valued mentor and colleague. He authored several canonical texts in his area of expertise, probability theory, and close to 100 papers. Ron was honored as a Fellow in the American Mathematical Society and the Institute



of Mathematical Statistics, and was an invited speaker at the International Congress of Mathematicians. He often expressed gratitude for having a great job in a beautiful place. He retired as Professor Emeritus of Mathematics in 2000.

Ron will be fondly remembered for his passion for research, dry wit, and love of the ocean, nature, good food, wine and good friends. Ron's family gives heartfelt thanks to his caregivers for their kindness and skill at keeping him comfortable at home.

A fund has been established in his name, the Ronald Getoor Memorial Fund, for Mathematical Probability Research, at UC San Diego. Donations can be made through UCSD, <http://bit.ly/GetoorMemorialFund>. A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date for his friends and extended family.

Please sign the Guest Book online obituaries.sandiegouniontribune.com

DEL MAR — Roland was born and raised in Portland, Oregon, to Roland and Marie Eva Blantz. He attended Johns Hopkins University where he received his undergraduate degree and his MD degree. He completed an Internal Medicine Residency at the University of Colorado and spent 2 years in the US Air Force as a flight surgeon. He then completed is Nephrology Fellowship at the University of Texas, Southwestern with Drs. Floyd Rector and Donald Seldin; two of his life-long mentors. They peaked his interest in research and in the pathophysiology of the kidney.

In 1972, he joined the faculty at the University of California, San Diego and at the age of 40, he became a Full Professor at UCSD. He conducted his research at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in La Jolla where he perfected micropuncture techniques leading to great advancements in the treatments of nephrology and hypertension.

He served as Associate Editor of American Journal of Physiology: Renal, the Journal of Clinical Investigation and up until recently, a co-editor of Current Opinions in Nephrology-Hypertension. He was an elected member of

Roland Clement Blantz

May 11, 1940 - October 29, 2017



the American Society of Clinical Investigation, Association of American Physicians and the American Clinical and Climatological Association. He was a President of the American Society of Nephrology and the Council of American Kidney Societies and served as Chairman of the External Advisory Committee of the NIH HEMO Trial. He was an elected Council member of the International Society of Nephrology and a member of their Publications Committee. His contributions in the fields of Nephrology and Hypertension are known nationally and internationally. He received the Donald B. Seldin Distinguished Professor award from the NKF (2005), the William S. Middleton award for Research Excellence from the Veterans Administration (2006), and the John P. Peters award from the American

Society of Nephrology (2010) which recognizes individuals who have made substantial research contributions to the discipline of nephrology and have sustained achievements in one or more domains of academic medicine including clinical care, education and leadership. This year, Roland received the Robert W. Berliner Award for Excellence in Renal Physiology. Roland Blantz collaborated in and published 221 research articles in leading medical journals and 37 medical book chapters pertaining to kidney pathophysiology.

Roland was an avid skier, a voracious reader and loved jazz music. He sang in the La Jolla Symphony Chorus for 22 years, enjoyed entertaining and especially traveling; his most recent trip was to Ireland to discover his roots in County Cork.

Roland is survived by his loving wife Christine, three sons: Adam, Eric, and Jason, two stepdaughters, Muriel and Sabrina, and 11 grandchildren plus Daisymarie, their beloved Rhodesian Ridgeback. He cherished his cousin Patsy for all the support and care she provided to his mother in Portland, Oregon, and was extremely fortunate and thankful for the twenty years of

care Alicia provided to him and to Christine. He truly appreciated the care received from all the healthcare professionals. A special note of thanks to Father Nicholas Dempsey, who administered the Sacrament of Healing many times. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be given to any of the following: The American Society of Nephrology, the National Kidney Foundation, La Jolla Symphony Chorus, the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine or the UCSD School of Medicine.

On November 17, 2017 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, there will be a viewing and rosary at the El Camino Cemetery located at 5600 Carroll Canyon Rd., San Diego, CA 92121. Hors d'oeuvres will be served.

On November 18, 2017 at 10:00 AM, Father Nicholas Dempsey will officiate the funeral mass at St. Therese of Carmel, located at 4355 Del Mar Trails Rd., San Diego, CA 92130.

Following this will be his burial with Military Funeral Honors at the El Camino Cemetery, 5600 Carroll Canyon Rd., San Diego, CA 92121, immediately followed by a celebration of his life at the Blantz' residence.

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Mary Merritt MacConnel

1914 - October 28, 2017

SAN DIEGO — Mary Merritt MacConnel was born in 1914 in Fairbanks, Alaska. Her father, Howard Merritt, managed the telephone company and sold provisions during the gold rush.

During WW1 the family moved to Massachusetts to manage his father's woolen mill which produced material for military uniforms. At war's end the family moved to San Diego.

Mary attended Grant Elementary, Roosevelt Junior High, Pt. Loma High, Scripps College, and graduated Stanford in 1938 majoring in journalism. In 1939, at the age of 25, Mary traveled to the Orient, which ignited her passion for travel and adventure. Upon her return she worked at the San Diego Sun newspaper as its society column editor.

During WW2 Mary was a receptionist at the Naval Training Station and in 1944 joined the Red Cross as a staff assistant and deployed to Europe to drive a clubmobile making doughnuts and coffee for the troops. She married, had two children and soon thereafter they moved to Mexico City for several years. There Mary



became a member of the Mexico Junior League Chapter.

Returning to San Diego, Mary received a teaching credential and in 1964 went overseas to teach in the American Military schools, living in Germany, Spain, and Italy.

After ten years, Mary returned to San Diego and became a member of the San Diego Junior League, The Wednesday Club, as well as an avid supporter of the San Diego art and music community.

She is survived by her son Kim MacConnel, artist and retired UCSD professor and her daughter Bridget MacConnel, retired San Diego City Schools high school art teacher.

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LA JOLLA — Dr. Paul U. Strauss, a San Diego psychiatrist and business owner, passed away on November 3, 2017 in La Jolla, California due to complications from pulmonary fibrosis. He was 89 years old.

Dr. Strauss was born in Lansing, Michigan, the son of German immigrants, Dr. Arnold Strauss and Helene Marie Stelling. After serving in the United States Army Air Corps from 1946-1947, Dr. Strauss graduated from Wayne University in 1949 with a degree in electrical engineering. He spent a year working in the Panama Canal Zone as an engineer before he decided to change careers to medicine, following in the footsteps of his father.

In 1958, Dr. Strauss received his medical degree from the University of Michigan. He met his wife, Anita Wuertz, while completing his residency in Denver, Colorado.

In 1964, Dr. Strauss accepted a job offer to serve as a psychiatrist with San Diego Community Mental Health Services and moved with his wife and young son

Paul U. Strauss, M.D.

January 12, 1928 - November 3, 2017



Brian to San Diego. Dr. Strauss later went into private practice and forensic psychiatry. It was his true passion to help the thousands of patients whom he treated during his 53-year career in San Diego. He had no desire to retire from a job that he loved, and continued treating patients until one month before his death.

Dr. Strauss' inquisitive mind and interest in creating a legacy for his family spurred him to invest in real estate and other enterprises starting in the early 1970's. He ultimately formed a family real estate company that is now run by his children. Dr. Strauss also was the proud owner of a local preschool, Fleur De Lis School, along with his wife.

Dr. Strauss' passions were not limited to psychiatry and business. He cared deeply about civil liberties, reproductive rights, and the environment. He received an award from the Coalition for Reproductive Choice in 2007 for being a defender of choice and was a proud supporter of Planned Parenthood, ACLU, KPBS, Emily's List, the Zoological Society of San Diego, and other similar organizations.

Another strong passion of Dr. Strauss' was gardening. He frequented nurseries looking for new plants and flowers to add to his garden, and he belonged to many gardening societies, including the Hemerocallis Society (daylilies). He also loved to travel with his wife and listening to music, including the waltzes of Johann Strauss (with whom he enjoyed sharing a surname) and New Orleans jazz.

As a first-generation American who worked his way out of poverty after his father died when he was seven years old, Dr. Strauss felt strongly about empowering

others through education and facilitating health advancements. As a result, he endowed two professorships at his alma mater, Wayne State University, to facilitate research into engineering and computer applications that improve medical care.

Dr. Strauss is survived by his wife of 55 years, Anita Strauss of La Jolla, his four adult children who live in San Diego: Brian Strauss, Kathleen Strauss (Scott Hawes), Diana Strauss Casey (Kevin Casey) and Randy Strauss (Paige Seeger Strauss), seven beautiful grandchildren (Julia, Ashley, Isabella, Courtney, Eliza, John and Hannah), and his nieces Sasha Kaufman and Beatrice Kaufman of Seattle, Washington and nephew Jim Kaufman of Cambridge, U.K. He was predeceased by his sister, Hildegard Kaufman.

A memorial service will be held for Dr. Strauss on November 18 at 3 p.m. at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, located at 4190 Front Street in Hillcrest.

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VeeDee Eler

October 13, 1934 - November 1, 2017

ESCONDIDO — VeeDee Eler, 83, passed away peacefully Nov. 1, 2017 surrounded by her loving daughter, Diana, her longtime companion of 16 years Edward (Eddie) and her compassionate caregivers.

She was born in San Diego and lived in Escondido for over 50 years. She is survived by daughter, Diana Wallace of Escondido, adoring grandson John (JT) and wife Valerie and great-granddaughter Avery; plus many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by husband Thomas, and sister DeV. and parents Ruth &



Robert Browning. In lieu of flowers, donations are suggested to the Escondido Humane Society.

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SAN DIEGO — Joan Claypool Braden was born in Wells, Minnesota, as the eldest of eight children born to Francis and Florence Nelson. The family moved to San Diego in 1942, settling in Linda Vista. As the proud mother of Pamela and Jeffrey, Joan worked for the SD Unified School District for 40 years, and opened Patrick Henry High School in 1968 as the Principal's secretary, where she stayed until retirement. In 1972, Joan met the love of her life, Glenn Braden, while square dancing. Glenn



was taken by the way she did the half sashay and still says "she was the cutest thing out there." When they married in 1983, Glenn brought

his children Glenda and Scott into the marriage and the family lived many wonderful years together. Following their retirements, Joan and Glenn RVED around the backroads of the US, enjoying many baseball tours, house boating on Lake Powell, whitewater rafting in Alaska, Arizona and Idaho, and working four seasons in remote areas of the Grand Canyon. After a two month trip this fall, Joan's health declined rapidly and she passed away peacefully on November 4, with Glenn

and family by her side. In addition to her children, Joan leaves behind daughters-in-law Terry and Tatiana, son-in-law Steve, and grandchildren Ryan, Elizabeth, Lauren, Thomas and Natasha. Joan is survived by her siblings Rosemary, Bobby, Carol, John, Mary and Richard, and 17 nieces and nephews and their children. For those who knew and loved her, Joan's radiant smile and warm heart will be missed forever. Hers was a life well lived.

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