



Adam Borges Mello

March 19, 1926 - June 8, 2017

Adam Borges Mello (Adamo), a native of New Bedford, Massachusetts, passed away peacefully in his Napa home with his loving daughter Lina at his side on June 8, 2017. The youngest of 10 children, he was born on March 19, 1926 to immigrants Antonio and Dorothy Mello from the Island of St. George, Azores. Always the entrepreneur, as a young child Adam had a shoe shine corner, sold newspapers, tended cows, and became the chief usher and projector operator in theaters. He spent his summers as a commercial fisherman on his father's fishing boat. Adam graduated from Roosevelt Junior High School and went on to attend President Franklin D Roosevelt's National Youth Administration School. Ultimately he joined his father in the commercial fishing industry.

With the outbreak of World War II, Adam was drafted into the Army and shipped overseas to the Mediterranean Theater of Operations in Italy where he wooed and married his war bride Nina Zurach. He served in the Army from June 15, 1944 until his Honorable Discharge, December 19, 1946. During his service to our country he received the European Campaign Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the Army of Occupation Medal and the Distinguished Unit Medal.

Upon his return from the war, Adam's career included a multitude of leadership responsibilities while working for the United States Office of Personnel Management. During his tenure he served as Deputy Chief of Procurement, Procurement Analyst, Small Business Economic Advisor and Contract Specialist and Negotiator. Among his many responsibilities was the construction of the Dredge Yaquina which required the relocation of the town of North Bonneville, WA in order to create the second electrical powerhouse and fish immigration ladder up the Columbia River. His most challenging and rewarding accomplishment was the negotiation and fabrication of the control unit for the first lunar landing research vehicle. He took immense pride in the vision of Astronaut Neil Armstrong walking down the ladder. In retirement, Adam continued to serve his country and community by serving on grand juries, contract review boards, and often served as keynote speaker at various events.

Adam was a master craftsman and spent his leisure time building wooden model boats that were reminiscent of his life and days as a commercial fisherman. His craft represents a love of the sea and the culture of the fishing community. In furthering his heritage he belonged to several clubs, Portuguese, Elks (where he was Exalted Ruler from 1985-1986), the VFW, SIRS and the Moose Lodge. His cultural traditions never escaped him with his passion for the sea, dance and elaborate stories about his life. He was a character and will be sorely missed.

Adam is survived by his daughter Lina Mello, and Jacqueline Wallace his loving companion, along with several step children including grandchildren and great grandchildren. He is predeceased by his first wife Nina Zurach, second wife Florence Mathias, third wife Aurora Flynn and his stepson Butch Mathias.

Friends and family are invited to the viewing at 4:00pm, followed by a funeral service in honor of Adam at Claffey and Rota, 1975 Main Street, June 15, 2017 at 7:00 PM.

Events

JUN **Visitation** 04:00PM - 07:00PM

15

Claffey & Rota Funeral Home
1975 Main Street, Napa, CA, US, 94559

JUN **Funeral Service** 07:00PM - 08:00PM

15

Claffey & Rota Funeral Home
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Comments



“ I loved him and I have found more interesting things about his life as I have had to go thru all his house. With this it has brought more sadness and at times I wish I could pick up a phone and ask a question or just say hello. I love you dad. Lina

lina - January 06, 2018 at 05:14 AM



“ Barbara Harris lit a candle in memory of Adam Borges Mello



Barbara Harris - June 15, 2017 at 09:24 AM



“ All our Love to the Lina and family...

Barbara Harris - June 15, 2017 at 09:29 AM



“ Linda Nishitsuji purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Adam Borges Mello.



Linda Nishitsuji - June 14, 2017 at 10:24 PM



“ I am so very sorry for your loss. I met Adam through my work at the Senior Center and looked forward to him coming in and sharing his stories with me! He was such a special man with so many talents and will truly be missed. Monday evenings will not be the same here without him.

My sincere sympathy,

Kelly Abernathy, Napa Senior Center Supervisor

Kelly Abernathy - June 14, 2017 at 02:58 PM