



## Urban P. "Phil" Dresden

December 21, 1919 - June 22, 2012

Mineral Point - Urban Philip "Phil" "Urbie" Dresden, 92, of Redwood City, CA, died on Friday, June 22, 2012, at Stanford Medical Center, Palo Alto, CA. He was a wonderful son, brother, uncle, great uncle, friend and neighbor.

He was born on December 21, 1919, in Mineral Point, WI, the youngest of the eight children of William and Catherine (Schill) Dresden. He played football for and graduated from Mineral Point High School.

He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on November 1, 1940, and was a Pearl Harbor survivor.

After his discharge from the Marines on November 2, 1946, he settled in San Francisco and, later, Redwood City, CA. He was successful in contracting, and in making store fixtures, fiberglass items, butcher blocks and butcher block tables.

He was a member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, California Chapter Sixteen, participating in the activities, especially Pearl Harbor Day parades and ceremonies. He put together a booklet containing the Association members' memories of the attack on Pearl Harbor and additional military service during the war. The booklet is entitled, "Pearl Harbor Attack and World War II Recollections – California Chapter Sixteen Pearl Harbor

Survivors Association."

He wrote his autobiography including his service in the Marines during the war. It is being typed and assembled.

He was predeceased by his parents; three brothers, Theodore, Robert and John Bernard; three sisters, Marie King DeMuth, Rosella Hall and Ruth Smith; one niece, Patricia A. Prock; one nephew, Richard M. Hall; two sisters-in-law, Frances Dresden (William) and Mildred Dresden (John Bernard).

He is survived by his brother, William T. Dresden (Lorraine) of Eau Claire, WI; three nieces, Mary Badger (David) of Pequot Lakes, MN, Catherine McCann (William) of Eau Claire, WI, and Gloria Wagner of Lubbock, TX; three nephews, Carl H. King, Jr. (Carol) of Fort Worth, TX, Jon N. Dresden (Shirley) of Peoria, IL and Gregory C. Hall of California; and many other relatives and numerous friends.

A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 a.m., on Saturday, July 28, 2012 at GORGEN FUNERAL HOME in Mineral Point, his hometown. He will be laid to rest in St. Mary's Cemetery there, with Father Monte Robinson officiating.

Memorials may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

# Tribute Wall

MI

“ Philip was the best neighbor and friend and it was truly a pleasure to grow up around him. I'll never forget the kindness he showed us all and the stories he passed on. Every day he would do his routine walk to get coffee and stop to pet our dog and have a conversation. Even the barkiest of dogs on the street would stop for philips attention. His home was always an open door if you knocked and he always seemed to remember our birthdays. Just shows how great of a person he was. I keep two swagger sticks he made me on my wall as remembrance and have had the thought of somehow learning more about him now that im older and keeping his stories alive. Philip I hope you're having a great time with blackey up there!



---

**Miguel** - December 21, 2025 at 09:36 AM



“ Urban P. "Phil" Dresden

---

November 15, 2022 at 06:49 AM

TL

“ I was a young boy when I first met Phil in the late 1950's. For many years he was a regular customer at my parent's restaurant, Tone's Barbecue in Daly City where Phil and my father Tony became friends and shared stories of their WWII service exploits. When I was 12 my father encouraged me to work for Phil on Saturdays, sweeping his shop and cleaning up for 25 cents an hour to begin with. Phil's shop was then in Daly City just a block from our house. For the better part of the next 6 years I continued to work for Phil and learned finish carpentry and cabinet making skills from him after school and during the summers. Phil was there for me the summer I was 17 when my father died suddenly and unexpectedly. He had many kind words for my mother at that difficult time and he knew the best thing he could do for this grieving 17 year old kid was to keep me extra busy.

Phil always had a cast of colorful characters working for him in his shop: Bob, Wayne, Vito, Willie, and Jerry. Phil put me to work with all of them which taught me how to work with a wildly diverse collection of personalities who each had their special talents and abilities to share with an eager kid. I must have learned my lessons well then because when I went to college to study Technical Theater and Stagecraft I was almost immediately hired as a paid Student Technician. Phil had taught me a craft that not only helped me in finding a career, but also helped me to pay my way through college.

A few years after graduating one of my proudest moments was when I told Phil I had been hired by Walt Disney Imagineering where I got to work on projects for EPCOT Center in Florida, Tokyo Disneyland in Japan, and Disneyland in California and to see a bit of the world as well!

Over the years I managed to stay in touch with Phil by phone, the mail, and occasional visits to see him in Redwood City when I came up north to share a beer or two and some of Phil's great stories that he always enjoyed telling. Many of his storied involved the other kids from our neighborhood that Phil put to work at his shop over the years. I was proud to have been the first of those neighborhood kids who worked for Phil. Perhaps the greatest legacy that Urban

*Philip Dresden has left behind was the fact that none of us kids from the neighborhood who worked for him ever got into any serious trouble while we were growing up under his guidance.*

*Thanks Phil for being there for us all and thanks for being a great friend and a true mentor.*

*Your pal, Tom Lizzio*

---

**Thomas Lizzio** - April 28, 2018 at 02:36 AM

JS

“ I was a longtime friend of Urbie and grew up with him in Mineral Point, Wisconsin; he was my class-mate when we graduated from Mineral Point High School in 1939, and after that I met him several times at class reunions, and for the past ten years or so I corresponded with him via letters (postal) and telephone. I visited him in Redwood City twice in the 1990s and first decade of 2000, up until the year of his death. He had a lady friend named Loretta. I am seeing today the first news of his death, as the last letter I wrote to him was returned to me "unable to deliver. As I did not have an address for Loretta, and was unable to call him via phone, although I placed three or four calls to his phone (and his phone rang but no one answered), I did not have any way of knowing about his death until I learned of him via the Internet. calls in Aug-2012)

*I enjoyed my friendship with Urb very much. He was from the "old school" and truly a remarkable, self-made man, and imagine he would have made an ideal 'poster boy' for the U.S. Marines - if you had Urb on 'your side' he would have been all the protection you needed.*

*May this valiant and honorable soul be enjoying Eternal Rest in the Lord's Kingdom, and may his surviving family members know what a gentle "Giant" Urb really was.*

*I would like to hear from Loretta, if she sees this, or any of Urb's family, particularly his brother Bill of Eau Claire, WI.*

---

**JULIAN j. SMITH** - April 28, 2018 at 02:36 AM