



Mr. John R. Schumacher, war hero, inventor, beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, left this world peacefully the morning of November 20th, 2016 surrounded by family. John celebrated his 95th birthday this past October in Atherton, CA, where he was a resident for 63 years.

In 1951 he met the love of his life, Roberta (Bobbie) Nevins. They were married January 2nd, 1953 and enjoyed 63 years of marriage.

Born October 9, 1921 in Minneapolis to the late Bernice and Raymond Schumacher, John spent his childhood in several cities as his father worked for the Federal Reserve during the Great Depression. His intelligence and diligent work ethic resulted in a scholarship to Woodmere Academy in New York and subsequently to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where he received degrees in both electrical engineering and chemical engineering in 1942. Later in life, John received advanced instruction in electronics from Harvard and MIT.

John's diligent personality combined with a strong love for his country led him to pursue a career in the military. In 1942, he enlisted in the Navy. He served at the Naval Research Laboratory and then became a radar officer on submarines. John subsequently served three tours on Gato-class submarines, the USS Shad, Trepang and Gato. On the Gato, he was stationed outside Tokyo harbor in 1945 and was one of the first US soldiers to enter Tokyo for peace agreements. His service during WWII resulted in the Bronze Star Medal, American Campaign Metal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Metal, Navy Unit Commendation and WW II Victory Medal. After the war, John returned to the Naval Research Laboratory and retired as a Commander in the Naval Reserve in 1958.

John also enjoyed a long and successful career as an inventor and businessman. After receiving his pilot license at age 24, he worked for Texaco setting up refueling stations for Pan American Airlines throughout the Caribbean. While working for Texaco, he invented the first paint spray can and sold the rights to Sherwin-Williams. After moving to California in 1950, he started a construction company and invented a new type of kitchen countertop using a machine called Post-Forming (U.S. patented), which rounded straight sheets of Formica.

John also worked with and invented electronic techniques which led to the emergency broadcasting system CONELRAD. He created a high-tech insulation division to install insulation at the GE San Jose power plant. He also sold long-playing tape transports developed by AMPEX to hotels and country clubs.

In the mid-1970s, John came up with the new concept of a "Wrap-Around Annuity" which allowed a depositor to defer paying taxes on savings accounts. A precursor to IRA and Keogh plans, American Guaranty Insurance Company grew to be a successful company staffed with 1,500 salespeople. In the 1980s, he became interested in geothermal energy. He drilled his own fields in Surprise Valley, California, and assisted the founders of Magma Power Company to raise funds for their geothermal plants. Now owned by Union Oil, Magma provides power to the San Francisco area. John was also civic minded, and worked with the USAID to establish a savings and loan program in Liberia and assisted the government in Sri Lanka to create a financial instrument to attract capital to the island country. Closer to home, he served on the Recreation Commission of Atherton.

Most important of all of his achievements, John was a loving husband, incredible father, and doting grandfather. Bobbie and John were avid cruise-goers, traveling the world and cutting up the dance floor. At home, John tirelessly devoted his energy to growing the perfect tomato and canning the most delicious home-grown apricots. John never let his mind tire, constantly reading to improve his knowledge and engaging Bobbie in every conversational topic under the sun.

John is survived by his wife Bobbie of 63 years, his four children, Bruce Werlhof and his wife Ada of Chico, CA., Sally Uhlmann and her husband Robert of Bozeman, MT. Nancy Schumacher and her husband Peter Rosenthal of Hewlett, NY. and Robert Schumacher and his wife Chris of Woodside, CA. He will be very much missed by his wife, children, 13 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren, as well as those fortunate enough to have met him throughout his colorful life.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Private services will be held.