



William David Powers

November 25, 2020

Denver, Colorado - William (Bill) David Powers passed away on November 25, 2020 in Denver, Colorado. He shared a wonderful life with Gloria Powers in a marriage that lasted 70 years and produced three children, Anne (Lou), Susan (Russ) and Steve (Sharon). He was also fortunate to have in his life six grandchildren -Greg, Alex, Liz (Isak), Ben (Sarah), Scott and Mali; three great-grandchildren, Walter, Esme, Penny; and his brother Rick, his cousin, Marcia, and many dear friends.

One of his great joys in life was cradling each grandbaby and making funny noises to make them laugh. Coupled with his affection for his grandchildren was his lifelong love of dogs, which started when he was in the Army Air Corp during WW2 and trained military dogs.

Bill was a remarkable person, an activist at heart. He genuinely cared about people and acknowledged the value of each person he met. He nodded to strangers on the street and was the first to go to a friend's house to fix a burst pipe. He also registered people to vote, participated (with his family) in many civil rights and anti-war activities and generally lived his values. In Philadelphia, he worked for Sears and Roebuck repairing appliances as his family was growing. Along the way, he got a bachelor's degree from La Salle University and became involved in affordable housing development. After working for the Phila. Housing Development Corporation, he spent 10 years commuting to Washington DC to work for the Housing Assistance Council, addressing housing needs in rural America. During his DC years, he also became a lobbyist on Capitol Hill for the National Housing Law Project.

In 1983 Bill and Gloria were drawn to California where he spent the next 35 years following his commitment to affordable housing, working for the Rural California Housing Corporation and the Western Center on Law and Poverty as a lobbyist at the State Capitol. For many years, he volunteered for organizations that he had a passion for, such as the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA), Congress of California Seniors, Sacramento Self-Help Housing and many others. One state legislator commented that he always hated to see Bill Powers heading towards him at the Capitol because he knew he couldn't say no to him! People often referred to him as their moral compass.

Bill spent over 5 years on the California State Board of Pharmacy as a board member appointed by the Governor as a consumer representative and served as president/chair for two years.

After the passing of his wife in 2017, he moved to Denver to be closer to his daughter, Sue and her family. He continued to be interested in the politics of the day confident that our tradition of democracy would survive.

Bill Powers Advocacy Funds have been set up in his honor at the National Housing Law Project (<https://www.nhlp.org/donate/>) and the Western Center on Law and Poverty (<https://wclp.org/>) for those interested in making donations.