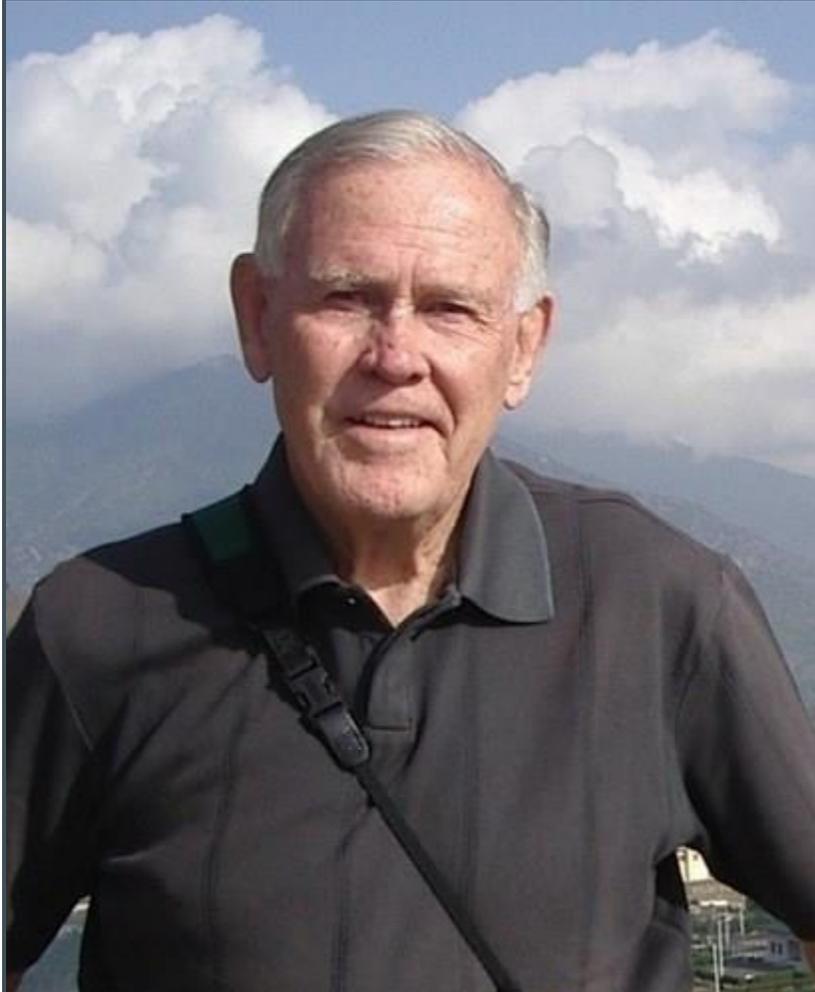


Barry Brown

1932 - 2022



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BARRY BROWN OBITUARY

Barry Brown

April 10, 1932 - May 18, 2022

Fair Oaks, California - Barry Price Brown was born in Nevada City, CA in 1932 to Glenn and Nancy Brown. His only sibling, brother Stuart, arrived two years later. WWII sent the family temporarily to Georgia, but after the war, they settled in San Jose, CA. In high school, Barry excelled in academics, ROTC, Future Farmers of America, and especially football, where his team won a state title and he was selected to the All-State team. A partial football scholarship and an acclaimed Bank of America scholarship allowed him to attend the University of California, Berkeley. While always working to pay his way, he played a few years of football, continued in ROTC, and graduated with honors with a Soils Science degree. After finishing a two-year Army stint, Barry began what would be an illustrious career as a soil and water specialist, beginning at the CA Dept of Water Resources. In those early years of his career, Barry tapped into the adventurer spirit that would define his life. He and a friend bought and outfitted a WWII ambulance and spent months exploring Baja Mexico. He skied the Alps, he took up skydiving, and he began voraciously climbing and backpacking the Sierra. During this time he also found himself on a DWR survey in Mt Shasta

City and pestered the pretty waitress at the local cafe to go fishing with him. He would spend the rest of his life with Eleanor. They married in Mt. Shasta, settled in Fair Oaks, and had three boys. Barry would eventually move on to the CA Energy Commission and then move to the Federal Land Bank until retirement. Deep into retirement, however, he continued to serve on state and federal water boards. He also remained active in the National Guard for 27 years, rising to a colonel at retirement. Through it all, he never stopped pulling fruit from the tree of life. He brought his boys into the wilderness and taught them to revere it, and he never stopped tramping and climbing in it. He tended the gardens, orchards, and cacti in the yard he so loved, and, as his mother had, he never stopped rock hounding. He ran marathons in his 50s, learned to swim, got SCUBA certified, and took up mountain biking in his 60s. At 68, with 8 fused vertebrae from a bike accident, he got to 16000ft on a Himalayan expedition. In his 80s he rejoined his sons on their annual backpacking trips. With Eleanor, he traveled the world, leaving almost no corner of the globe unexplored, and they filled their home and yard with the art they loved. Barry also kept his prized possessions, the prime example being his 1955 Chevy Bel Air Coupe, the first car he ever bought, which still sits in the garage, fully refurbished. In Fair Oaks Village he found his place in the world, and his community service over 50 years—zoning commissions, water board, honorary mayor, arts &

leisure board, historical society, donor plaza, Fair Oaks monument, children's dance pad, FOVECâ€"left an indelible and lasting stamp on the place he loved. Barry was many thingsâ€"determined, focused, stubborn, courageous, self-confident, honest, fearless, intense, curious, family-devotedâ€" that made for a combination that brought forth a life-affirming presence that had an effect on everyone that crossed his path. He was, in short, a whirlwind of life that was a wonder to behold. To his wife Eleanor, he was a devoted constant companion. To his sons, he was a beacon beckoning a rich, full life. To his granddaughters he was simply the Big Brown Bear, their own living, breathing teddy bear. Barry is survived by his beloved family: his wife Eleanor; his sons Keric, Erin, and Darin; his daughters-in-law Debby and Jennifer; and his granddaughters Fiona, Autumn, Marina, Aurora, and Elodie. We miss him profoundly, but we are all comforted by the knowledge that his 90 years were the definition of a life well-lived.

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