Donald E. Sullivan

His Legacy … Don was born on May 7, 1928 in Richmond, CA, the oldest of five children to Edward J. and Mae C. Sullivan. He attended schools in the Bay area and Bellarmine Prep in San Jose. He was also awarded Eagle Scout honors in 1947. In 1949 he graduated from Santa Clara University as a pre-med student and earned his medical degree in 1954 from Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska. In 1951 he married his sweetheart, Loretta Joan Weaver. He then joined the US Navy-Medical Corp and attended the Naval School of Aviation Medicine as a Flight Surgeon in 1955 receiving several commendations and medals during his service and being discharged as a Lt. Senior Grade in October 1957. Don was hired as a county physician at Sutter County Hospital in 1957, and in 1958 he opened his first family medical practice in Live Oak, and in 1964 he opened his medical practice in Gridley. During this time he served as Chief of Staff for the Biggs-Gridley Memorial Hospital for several terms, medical director for Valley Oaks Health Care Center, visiting physician for the Leo Chesney Correctional Facility in Live Oak and medical director for the Hovlid Center at BGMH Hospital. He was also a lifetime member of the American Academy of Family Practice. As a family practitioner, Don loved and cared for generations of families in the Gridley-Biggs-Live Oak area for over 52 years. At the time of his retirement, the hospital foundation honored Don by naming Gridley’s medical clinic The Donald E. Sullivan, M.D. Medical Specialty Center. Don also served the community through volunteer work, including providing Pop Warner Football team, and conducting polio vaccination clinics. He was lifetime member of the Gridley Rotary Club and a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church and the Gridley Moose Lodge. In 1982, he was awarded the Chamber of Commerce’s Man of the Year, and received the Chamber’s Lifetime Achievement Award in 2003

His Family … Don is survived by the love of his life and wife of 60 years, Joan, two sons, Ed of Folsom, Bill (Tina) of Gridley, and two daughters, Kathy (John) McHenry of Sparks, Nevada, and Laurie of Gridley, four grandchildren, Maycee Sullivan, and John, Matt, and Kyle McHenry, as well as four great-grandchildren, Sadie, John, Micky and Jackson. He is also survived by his brother, Terence (Ann) Sullivan, and sister, Mary Sullivan Prolo (Jeff), as well as numerous nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his father and mother, Sister Loretta McClellan, and brother, Richard Sullivan.

His Service … A funeral mass will be held at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Thursday, July 12, at 10:00am and burial to be held at the Gridley-Biggs Cemetery. A celebration of life will be held at the Moose Lodge immediately following the burial ceremony. Arrangements are entrusted to Gridley Block Funeral Chapel. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to Biggs-Gridley Hospital Foundation, Rotary Foundation, the Moose Lodge, or a charity of your choice.

May 7, 1928
July 7, 2012

Please sign their guest book at www.RamseyFuneralHomes.com

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