



William Dolter

September 22, 1926 - September 28, 2025

William (Bill) Erwin Dolter of Fairfield, California died on Sept. 28, 2025, after a long illness. He was born on Sept. 22, 1926, in San Francisco, CA to Louis and Helen Dolter. He was an only child and spent his entire childhood in San Francisco.

Bill served in the United States Army at the end of World War II from 1945 to 1946. He was attached to the 808th Engineer Aviation Battalion and served overseas in the Philippines and Japan.

Upon his return home he enrolled in and graduated from Cogswell College in San Francisco. He then worked for Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory and Lawrence Livermore Laboratory for 40 years. He initially worked as Draftsman and later as a Mechanical Specialist.

In 1960 he met his future wife, Jean Cofell, at church in San Francisco. They married on June 17, 1961, a union that would last until Jean's death in December 2021, over 60 years later.

Bill and Jean raised two sons, eventually moving from San Francisco to Oakland then El Cerrito. They lived in El Cerrito for 30 years and after retiring, moved to Fairfield.

Bill loved the outdoors and took many backpacking trips with the Sierra Club prior to getting married. He volunteered for several years with the Boy Scouts when his sons were members, continuing his love of backpacking, camping and fishing.

Bill was a dedicated caregiver for his wife Jean for several years as she battled dementia until her death.

Bill is survived by his sons, James Dolter (Karen and their son, Nicholas) of San Diego, California and Thomas Dolter (Senne and their children, Joshua, Danny and Gabby) of Benicia, California; he is also survived by his nephews and niece, Scott Veenstra, Bruce Veenstra (Julie) and Elizabeth Veenstra and her daughter, Grace.

Bill was preceded in death by his wife Jean, his parents, sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Mary and Charles Veenstra.

Bill's ashes will be interred at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in a private family service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, (Alz.org) or the charity of your choice.