

Howard Level

July 26, 1923 - December 3, 2011

Howard Level, age 88, of Ventura, passed away peacefully at home on December 3, 2011.

Howard was born on July 26, 1923, in Philadelphia, to Vernon and Gladys Level. He later resided in Syracuse, New York, having attended Onondaga Valley Academy before entering Syracuse University. After completing his first year of university, in response to the Pearl Harbor attack in December, 1941, Howard enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving three and a half years in the Pacific Theater of World War II. In 1946 he returned to Syracuse University, earning his B.A. degree in geology in 1949 and began working in the petroleum industry throughout the western states. His love of adventure took him to Wyoming in 1949, where he climbed the 13,775 foot tall Grand Teton. In 1950 he reenlisted in the U.S. Navy to serve in the Korean War, and was sent to Bremerton, Washington, serving on the aircraft carrier USS Princeton.



In Seattle, Washington, he met his future wife, Irene Juberg, and married in 1951. Howard then enrolled in the Colorado School of Mines for graduate study in geology. He continued working for several oil companies throughout the U.S. west, including Union Oil, which brought him to Santa Paula in 1961. With his family now including three sons, Eric, Mark and Keith, he settled in Ventura. Leaving the itinerant oil business, Howard began a new career in teaching, and completed a Master's Degree in geography in 1964 at San Fernando Valley State College (now CSU Northridge).

Between 1963 and 1988 he taught earth sciences at Ventura College, and is remembered by former students for his passion for geology and for his many field trips to study geology in the field. Howard served as a volunteer baseball coach in Little League for many years, coaching all three of his sons.

After retirement from teaching, Howard volunteered for the Channel Islands National Park, frequently leading hikes on several islands, most frequently on Santa Rosa Island. He also served as a volunteer docent at the Santa Paula Oil Museum and also lectured on geology and natural history on many cruise ships, including many to Alaska. Howard and wife Irene were fortunate to have traveled many times to Europe and numerous parts of the United States.

Howard is survived by his wife Irene, with whom he recently celebrated 60 years of marriage. He is also survived by his three sons, their wives and children: Eric (wife Linda Marsello and daughter Anna) of Shoreview, Minnesota; Mark (wife Christine and son Clay) of Sebastopol, California, and Keith (wife Barbara and son Spencer) of Danville, California.