



## Mr. Harold C. Carman

June 30, 1959 - March 26, 2020

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Harold C. Carman, a 37 year resident of Bellflower, CA, passed away on March 26, 2020 at Torrance Memorial Hospital, surrounded by his family.

Harold was born June 30, 1959 in Los Angeles, CA. He grew up in Lynwood, CA and graduated from Lynwood High School in 1977. He attended California State University of Long Beach, studied Business Administration and joined the Rowing Team (Crew). Harold excelled at anything he put his mind to and it never occurred to him that he couldn't or shouldn't try something that he wanted to do. Rowing was an example of something he was very passionate about that most would not picture him being successful at.....most crewman were nearly a foot taller than him. This made it a bit comical to watch as he joined an eight-man crew that carried the boat on their shoulders to the water, and him on his tippy toes, but that didn't bother him. Harold settled in as a very successful single or double crewman and soon qualified for the 1980 Olympic Rowing Team.

In 1979, Harold married his high school sweetheart, Michelle. They settled in Bellflower in 1982, where together they raised their 5 children. Harold was a devoted husband and father who believed in being active in his community and in his children's education. He consistently looked for ways to give of his time and talents and, as an avid, lifelong music enthusiast, felt honored when he was invited to become a member of the Papal Choir and sing for the Los Angeles Pastoral Visit of Pope John Paul II in 1987. Harold was very active in the PTA, participating in talent show skits, showing up during the school day dressed as a clown, and becoming one of the first male PTA presidents. He was later appointed to the Bellflower City Traffic Commission and served as an elected Governing Board Member for Bellflower Unified School District from 1991 to 2001.

Harold worked for the California Department of Motor Vehicles and in August of 2019, retired after 31 years serving the public. He has always been known by his employees as

a caring, fun and mentoring boss.

Of all of his attributes, Harold is most likely known for his sense of humor and fun-loving spirit. In the workplace, he constantly strived to create a spirit of comradery and had a strong sense of duty to his job and employees. While he could be all business one minute, he could then have

a room of executives laughing uncontrollably the next. Harold was as well known for the high performance of his DMV office as he was for his antics on the work floor. He kept his employees laughing by "whooshing" with his arms up like Superman or riding his broom horse around the office to the theme of Bonanza.

To all who encountered him, Harold quickly became known for his quick wit, humor and friendliness. For those that know him as family, friend, peer, employee or, boss, he was also a pillar of strength, full of generosity, compassion, support and love. The legacy of his laughter and the ability to make others laugh will live on for many generations.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harrel C. Carman and Concepcion (Connie) Sametier Carman.

He is survived by his wife and best friend of 41 years, Michelle Carman; children, Mary Lynn (Randy) Reza, Harrel (Julianne) Carman, Benjamin Carman, Samantha Carman, Nicholas (Kathy) Carman; grandchildren, Randy Jr., Elizabeth, Joseph, Andrew, Aaron, Katherine, Chase, Aaliyah and Oliver; and his sister Sheila Stark.

Funeral Services will be private,

# Comments

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“ I had the pleasure of working with this kindhearted man at the DMV. Rest well Mr Harold.

**Rashelle Knauls-Peatros** - July 08, 2020 at 10:03 PM

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“ Jean and I have fond memories of the good work that Harold accomplished with and for the Bellflower Unified School District. He will be greatly missed. Bruce Engelbach

**Bruce Engelbach** - July 06, 2020 at 05:28 PM

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“Wow, I think I first met Harold at 'The Window' at Lynwood High. Remember 'The Window' where ASI would have someone to take orders for things like class rings, year book, etc. Usually someone that was on ASI leadership would work the Window. Harold was often there and my cohort was often seen hanging about the Window. In 9th grade Michelle Gogos, aka 'Me', Sharon and I would travel in a girl pack. When we hung out at the Window it was typically because Harold was there to entertain us. I don't remember if he was among the 'Morning Library Crowd' or not. What I do remember is that his eyes sparkled when he made one of his famous witty, wry, interpretive comments. Harold was ALWAYS a click above most in the crowd. I can humbly say I was among those.

I think our girl pack kind of fell apart in 10th grade. Maybe 11th (for sure by then) when we all started to realize the importance of our future lives, we started to take greater command of our goals. Well, they did, I was still pretty naive. Little did I know that that twinkle, that sparkle in Harold's eye would translate into a life long, solid, not always easy, lifetime love between him and my life long friend Me. Me, now Michelle Carmen.

Losing your lifelong partner is devastating. Okay, well, I don't have experience with that type of loss, I can only equate it to my losing two of my best friends—one to suicide, the other to brain cancer... and if that tore the heart out of my chest, I cannot even fathom what my friend Me is going through with the loss of the person that stood by her side, and she him, since Me was a sophomore, a friend even before that. Sorry if my time lining is off a bit (Me always corrects me about when we met-- which, I believe was second grade but she thinks 3rd). I cannot imagine what hole that creates in a life, a heart, a spirit, when two people having been made whole through their lifetime commitment to one another are torn apart the way only death can tear.

I believe that people we love are kept alive by our remembering them, remembering their actions, reminiscing about their exploits. I hope that other's write their memories of Harold for the Carmen family to reflect on. For me, the twinkle, which was his wit, is my most endearing memory. And that he loved my friend, Me, nearly his entire life long. What a gift. What a treasure. What a sad, untimely, unnecessary loss. <3

Tracey Emmerick Takeuchi - July 06, 2020 at 05:10 PM

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“ Harold you were a light at the end of a dark tunnel. Always lending an ear, a shoulder, some great advice, love and huge hugs. You were not only my boss, but a friend and family. You gave me so much. The carpools were incredible. We never laughed so hard, seeing some of the things people did in their cars. The guy getting dressed, showering himself with baby powder, we laughed all the way home. We sang, cried and just talked about everything. You were Always there for me. Even when ‘Others’, thought it was too much. Thank you for all the laughs. Thank you for all the love. Thank you for all of it. You taught me so much about life. I Love You Harold Carman. The world really lost a great man. I Love You Michelle and Family

**renee bertot** - July 06, 2020 at 12:20 PM

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“ My sincere and heartfelt condolences to the Carman Family. I've know Harold since the 7th grade and we have kept in touch over these many years. He was truly a blessed man and a true gentleman. His legacy will live on in his children and grandchildren. I have honestly lost a great friend, and no one will ever fill the empty place he left in my life. I'll always remember his humor and his laugh his great smile and those tricky eyebrows. Being a "band geek" with him will always be a fond memory. I could go on, but everyone who knew him will have similar stories and memories. His family has lost a great man, but they will always be surrounded by the memories and stories of everyone who knew and loved hm. Rest peacefully, my dear, dear friend.

**Kelene** - July 06, 2020 at 11:59 AM

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“ Condolences to the family Harold will truly be missed! He was a person that was truly loved!

**Barbara Hodge Chandler** - July 05, 2020 at 10:58 PM

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“ Robin Snow lit a candle in memory of Mr. Harold C. Carman



**Robin Snow** - July 03, 2020 at 03:45 PM