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ALFRED J. SPAETER

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"The oldest Living Trojan Baseball Legend", You Tube 2015, a.k.a. "Big Al"

Our so very loved, admired and respected father went to be with his recently passed and cherished wife Jane, and brother Bill, on December 29, 2017. He missed them so much.

He was born in Angels Hospital in Los Angeles, March 4, 1923 to Alfred Spaeter Sr. and Julia (Agnus) Foley Spaeter. His brother Bill was born the next year on March 6th and they became inseparable. They grew up in Inglewood, riding their bikes to Santa Monica and playing stickball in the streets with their younger cousin George Allen in tow.

Al loved and excelled in academics and all sports. Baseball was his favorite. At Fremont High he made "All Conference" twice as second baseman on three championship varsity teams. He then accepted a four year scholarship to play baseball for USC.

He played for new coach Rod Dedeaux, elected captain and as the Trojan's second baseman his team won the "Pacific Coast Conference" three times, Al making "All conference" twice, and elected "best second baseman of those conferences". In 1943 the Red Sox and New York Yankees offered him positions. He turned them down to finish his senior year. The next day he was recruited into the Navy, where he served in both the European and South Pacific Theaters. He then returned to SC, enjoying one more Trojan baseball championship. He remained close to Coach Dedeaux the rest of Rod's life.

He was a loyal Sigma Chi and elected into the Honors organization of Skull and Dagger excelling academically as a Business and Industrial Relations major as well as later in their Masters of Business Administration program.

On graduation day he signed with the Portland Beavers and played Triple A Pacific Coast league after beating out seven other second basemen for the position. He was quickly recruited away to play for the first place team at the time, Salem's Senators, (a Boston Red Sox team) They were first that year with dad posting a .353 batting avg.

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had a steady". He joined Douglas Aircraft where he finally found the love his life, Jane Williams who was working in Engineering Design. They were wed in 1955, moved to a new home in Rolling Hills Estates with a new baby daughter and a son to follow .

They loved the Peninsula, and made many lifelong friends, joining many organizations including Bravo and Encore. They loved traveling the world but, dad said, "there was no place more beautiful than Palos Verdes."

A proven leader, he had a very successful career heading up Design, Tooling and Engineering organizations for Douglas. He took early retirement, but was recruited by Rockwell International to assist on the B1 program.

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