Hal Dane McCann

February 23, 1926 - September 28, 2014 Hal Dane McCann, 88, died Sunday, September 28 after a long and hard-fought battle with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and cardiomyopathy. He died comfortably in Pasadena with his family at his side. Hal is survived by his adoring wife of 59 years, Dorothy McCann, as well as his three devoted daughters, Dana Dewberry, Lauren McCann and Shannon Remy. He is predeceased by his fourth daughter, Susie McCann. He is also survived by his son-in-law, Steven Dewberry, and his four grandchildren, Annie Dewberry (22), Sean Dewberry (20), Ryan Dewberry (14) and Dane Remy (8). Hal was born in Nebraska in 1926 to Cecil and Marie McCann. He grew up in Long Beach, California, graduated from Long Beach Polytechnic High School and was an Officer in the United States Navy. A brilliant and gifted scholar, Hal was a multi-degreed engineering graduate of the California Institute of Technology by the age of 19, after which he received his Masters Degree in engineering from the University of Southern California at the age of 20. In March of 1949, at the age 22, Hal and five of his college buddies pooled their funds to purchase a three-masted, flush-decked schooner, the California, and set sail out of Wilmington, California harbor for a five-year adventure circumnavigating the globe. The 42,000 mile journey that included encounters with cannibals, bouts of malaria, countless sea squalls, spies, smugglers and more has been chronicled in the books, "Give Me the World" by Leila Hadley and "On Wits and Wind" by Ward Vickers, as well as in several "Reader's Digest" articles and the television documentary programs, "I Search for Adventure" and "Bold Journey." Hal was the last remaining survivor of the California crew. Hal will be remembered as a stalwart of integrity and a true "giant" of a man; less for his imposing 6-foot, five-inch frame, than for his widely-respected intellect and his unwavering strength and reliability. He was his family's "rock." Hal's life will be honored in a private family memorial.

Published in the Los Angeles Times from Sept. 30 to Oct. 1, 2014