



Michael E. Manning

September 13, 1935 - May 19, 2025

Michael Manning, 89, passed away peacefully on May 19, 2025, in Placentia, California. Born on September 13, 1935, in Quanah, Texas, Michael lived a life marked by innovation, faith, and unwavering dedication to his family and country. A brilliant mind with a passion for discovery, Michael earned his Master of Business Administration from Redlands University. His thesis - written more than three decades ago - astutely predicted the rise of the remote workplace, showcasing his forward-thinking nature and deep understanding of societal trends. Professionally, Michael was an accomplished aerospace engineer whose work helped propel the United States into the space age. He played a meaningful role in putting Americans on the moon and made significant contributions to establishing the nation's air dominance for generations. A lifelong inventor with numerous patents to his name, he was known for his inquisitive spirit and ability to turn complex problems into elegant solutions. Whether designing aerospace systems or improving his own home with custom-built renovations, Michael brought vision and precision to everything he touched. Michael's commitment to service extended beyond engineering. A devoted follower of Christ, he was an active member of the Gideons International organization. Through this ministry, he distributed Bibles and shared messages of hope throughout the state of California and during a church-building mission's trip to Russia. His faith was not only professed but lived—he brought comfort and inspiration to many through both word and deed. He also had a keen interest in politics, beginning

with his serving as a Goldwater delegate at the 1964 Republican National Convention and culminating with his widely respected My Opinion election letter that reached thousands of readers. His thoughtful commentary provided clarity during uncertain times and helped guide many in their civic responsibilities. Outside of his professional and spiritual pursuits, Michael found joy in reading, investing, outdoor activities like skiing, hiking, camping, and sailing, as well as cheering on his favorite teams—the Angels, Rams, and USC football. These passions reflected his curious mind and enduring enthusiasm for life.

Michael is lovingly remembered by his wife of almost 49 years, Deanna Manning; sons Richard Manning and Ronald Manning; daughter Pamela Smith; stepson Stephen Harber; stepdaughter Terri Harber; granddaughter Tracy Manning; grandson Joshua Smith; step-grandchildren Christian Harber and Jordan Harber; great-grandchildren Sierra, Kenny, Faith, Asher, Darcie, and Charlie; and sisters Dottie Stewart and Patty Nicholson. He was preceded in death by his son, Davey.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Samaritan's Purse—a ministry close to Michael's heart that brings hope and light into the lives of those suffering without it. Michael Manning leaves behind a legacy of innovation, faithfulness, wisdom, and love. May his memory bring comfort to all who knew him. A Funeral Service will be held on June 14, 2025, from 11:30 AM at Memory Gardens, 455 West Central, Brea. Reception to follow.

Cemetery Details

Memory Garden Memorial Park

455 W. Central Avenue
Brea, CA 92821

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN 14. 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM (PT)

Memory Garden Memorial Park & Mortuary
455 W. Central Ave.
Brea, CA 92821
(714) 529-3961
info@memorygarden.com
<https://www.memorygarden.com/>

Immediately following the memorial service within Memory Garden's Williamsburg Chapel, there will be a reception held in the Heritage Room.