Harold Blair “Hal” Dyson
Born: February-18-1932
Died: January-14-2019

He was the only child of Margaret Menardi of Laramie, WY and Harold Dyson of England.

Hal is survived by his wife of 61 years, Eleanor Bryant “Elly” Dyson of Annandale, Virginia; his son, John Blair Dyson, Annandale, Virginia; his daughter, Karen Elizabeth Harbaugh, and her husband, Cliff of Frederick, Maryland; his grandson, Jeremy Matthew Harbaugh, and his wife Lauren, of Frederick, Maryland; his sister-in-law, Elly’s sister, Susan Bryant, of Sebring, FL and her children, Hal’s nephew and nieces, Steven Meyer, of Long Island, New York, Janet Meyer of Las Vegas, Nevada, Kal Lucas and her husband Brian of Sag Harbor, New York and the seagoing catamaran, SV Serenity.

Hal was born in Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii. He was raised on Ewa Sugar Plantation, Oahu, until the Pearl Harbor invasion when the family moved to Manoa Valley. His father was a field overseer on the sugar plantation and his mother was a school teacher. Known by family and friends in Hawaii as Blair, he attended Punahou School graduating in 1950 – “Big and Strong, Hot & Nifty, We’re the Class of 1950”.

[Image of Harold Blair “Hal” Dyson]
He attended Pasadena City College, 1950-1952 and UCLA 1952-1953. He played football for Pasadena, including the Junior Rose Bowl Championship Game in 1951. He entered West Point Military Academy in 1953 and was a graduating member of the West Point Class of 1957.


With family following to most tours of duty, Hal served in the United States Army, Infantry, for 31 years, retiring in 1987. He was Ranger and Airborne qualified. He served assignments and schools at: Fort Benning, Georgia; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Mainz, Germany; Fort Knox Kentucky; Monterey, California: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Fort Amador, Quarry Heights, Fort Clayton in the Canal Zone, Panama; Viet Nam; Fort Shafter, Hawaii; and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He finished his Army career moving to DC area where he served in a variety of positions in the Pentagon and other posts throughout the area.

His daughter, Karen, was born in 1960 in Wiesbaden, Germany while he was stationed in Mainz, Germany; his son, John, was born in 1963 while station in Monterey, California. Through the years Hal was active with coaching T-Ball teams, Cub & Boy Scouts, making and painting model soldiers, brewing beer and dabbling in other spirits; model trains, woodworking and carving, tinkering with clock repair, faux painting and gaming. Hal enjoyed attending annual gaming conventions – Fall In, Historicon, Cold Wars & Military Miniatures. He was game master for the Aerodrome game for many years.

There are many cherished memories of family, friends and neighbors throughout the years. Please consider leaving a memory of events you have shared in Hal’s life.

Family will gather in celebration of Hal’s life on Monday, February 18, 2019. This day would have been Hal’s 87th birthday. Please join us if
at the Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home, 9902 Braddock Road, Fairfax, Virginia 22032 from 2pm-4pm.
In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to West Point Association of Graduates – The Long Gray Line Fund. (www.westpointaog.org)
Burial at Arlington Cemetery will be announced at a future date.