



Harold Kantor

May 1, 1933 - April 3, 2020

Our beloved Harold “Hal” Theodore Kantor, 86, of Palm Beach, FL, died on April 3, 2020 in Palm Beach with his adoring wife Catherine by his side.

Hal was born in Brooklyn, NY in 1933 to Betty and Louis Kantor. He attended Tilden High School where he was a varsity basketball player.

“Handsome Hal” (aka “Heshie”) was president and co-owner of Congress Liquors, a well-established bar and liquor chain in Palm Beach County. Prior to that, Hal was in various New York and Ohio based businesses with his brother Marvin Kantor, including Wendt Bristol Diagnostics.

Most recently, Hal was actively involved in his condo association serving as two-term president and board member. He was a passionate cook and lover of Italian food, an avid tennis player, and Miami Heat fan. He also served in the military.

Hal was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and loyal friend to many. He was much loved by his wife of 22 years Cathy, first wife Marlene, daughter Susan, son and daughter-in-law Steven and Lucy, and was adored by grandsons, Robert and Zachary, brother and sister-in-law Charles and Lonnie, nieces and nephews Seth, Rebecca, Alice, Brian, Gregory and their families. He was also adored by his wife’s family and will be missed by Cathy’s sister Linda, niece Kimberly and her husband and son, Greg and Matthew. He was predeceased by his brother Marvin.

Hal will be missed by all who knew him. He will be laid to rest at 11:30 AM April 5, Palm Beach, FL.

In lieu of flowers, please consider supporting American Diabetes Association (diabetes.org) or United Way of Palm Beach County Covid-19 Response Fund (unitedwaypbc.org/coronavirus-donate).

To ensure the health and safety of our community, we are following all guidelines set by local, state and CDC officials. If you are planning on attending a service, please contact the family in advance, so that they can plan accordingly.

Cemetery

Palm Beach Memorial Park Cemetery

3691 North Seacrest Blvd.

Lantana, FL, 33462

Comments



“ Handsome Hal. He got that name not only because he was good-looking, but more importantly, he was ATTRACTIVE. People have always been attracted to his smile, his mild manner, sense of humor and quick wit. To his humbleness, curiosity and genuine interest in what you were saying when speaking to you. He was very accepting and non-judgmental, which made everyone feel they could just "be" when around him. And though he was not outwardly emotional, he had a big heart and was extremely warm and loving.

He was a simple man, in a good way. Simple pleasures made him happy. He was very laid back, "chill" as my nephews would say. He didn't often get riled up, but if he did...we would be scared and know we pushed it..

Dad was a bit set in his ways...and didn't like confrontation. Sometime indecisive or just, delayed in making the big decisions.

He truly enjoyed running his daily "chores," washing cars, sweeping the yard, barbequing, carving the turkey on Thanksgiving, going to the bakery for fresh bread and pastries and appetizing on Sundays.

He was passionate about food-especially Italian cuisine. He loved cooking...and eating. He loved watching the Food Network and Cooking Channel. And he always shared recipes with me. Whenever he and Cathy came to NY or LA, we planned the trip around meals. I would make reservations at restaurants he had read about or of his favorite chef. And when he cooked, he had total command of the kitchen. It was so much fun to watch him. I too love cooking, drinking good wine, keeping my car clean and sweeping the yard. Everyone always says, "you're your father's daughter." He loved his family, especially his mother, Betty, our matriarch. He idolized his older brother Marvin and laughed with his baby brother Chuck like no one else. He adored his nieces and nephews, Alice, Rebecca and Seth. He was a wonderful father to me and Steven and although my Mom Marlene and his marriage ended after 38 years, my favorite memories are of us as a family and him as a wonderful father and husband. He was stern but gentle at the same time. He very rarely yelled at us. One look was all it took.

Never in a million years could I have imagined a more frightening and tragic time in the world. But in some twisted way, I am thankful for being "stuck" in Florida for the chance to have spent time with him in what turned out to be his last days. Heaven got one of the good ones. May he reunite with our beloved grandmother, Betty Pa, our maternal grandparents, Nana and Papa Joe and his brother Marvin and sister-in-law, Sybil who he loved dearly. May he shine his bright light on all of us still here on earth and give us strength to get through these tough times and coming days, months, years without him.

I love my Daddy. Every year without fail, we would send each other a beautiful Valentine's Day card. We always both wrote, "you'll forever be my favorite Valentine." I will forever miss you, my favorite Valentine.



“ My Dad was simply "cool". Loving, calming, easy to talk to, smart, athletic, handsome, stylish, amazing sense of humor and always supportive of my decisions regardless of how they may have impacted him. I just loved being with him. Didn't need anything more from him. He knew I loved him, liked him and idolized him. He will always be with me every moment of everyday until I am able to join him again. I lucked out to be able to call him "my Pop".

Love you for eternity. With respect, admiration and appreciation.

Your son.

Steven

Steven - April 09, 2020 at 05:00 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Steven - April 09, 2020 at 04:48 PM



“ "My Uncle Hal was a deeply kind and gentle man. He had a wonderful smile and his manner to me was always one of respect, loving and caring. Growing up in Queens, our family would travel to Long Island what seemed like every weekend for a BBQ, at my aunt and uncle's house. I can picture him standing over the grill in shorts, cigarette dangling and in his handsomeness. One time Steven and I were playing baseball with the garage door as our 'catcher" . We broke one of the garage door windows and I panicked. I was terrified to tell in front of my father. Yet Uncle Hal took in our words and kindly let us know it was an accident. Another time, I remember staying outside playing ball (yet again) and it grew dark. As the sun went down, Steven and I got every last once out of our game before we headed into the house. Once again, I worried about what my dad would say of us being out late. As we ran inside the house, my dad spoke to the fact that we were outside after dark. And there Uncle Hal stood, 6 ft plus, and gently said "Marvin, this is'nt Queens!" If it was'nt Long Island BBQ's, it was summer at Betty Pa's in Mountaindale. Oh how much I loved when my cousins came up to the country! It meant to me extended time hang with my cousins to play stick ball against the shed, shoot BB's at the can on top of the pole and endless swinging on the tire swing hanging from the big tree next to the main bungalow. And there in the sunshine, in the grass was Uncle Hal lounging in the hammock, cigarette dangling, looking as handsome and sweet as ever. His manner provided a welcome calm against the backdrop of the rest of the Kantor family. And he could jump in to any of his brother's stories, jokes, kidding and hold his own. I remember most of all is how much I love him, for all that he gave me - his gentle, kind, caring look, smile, laugh, and arm around me. I can hear him he call me "doll". And when he did I felt beautiful. We love you Uncle, we miss you here on earth with us, yours then, now and forever, Ali

ali kantor - April 09, 2020 at 04:36 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Susan D Kantor - April 09, 2020 at 02:44 PM



“ Uncle Hal, good-natured, fun, sweet and loving , a soft counterpart to my father’s tougher edge. He was a devoted father, son and husband, beloved brother. My fond memories of Hal reach far back into childhood and could fill pages. One of my favorite though is the day he took me out on the backroads of Mountindale to practice my driving before my upcoming driver’s test and to spare me from Marvin’s impatience. We had fun. And, I passed the test. If he was terrified by my driving, he would never show it.

More recently, Hal was an incredible support to me through the difficult couple of years supporting my father through his rapid decent into Alzheimer’s disease. I would call him on my way to work, describe the horrors of Marvin’s decline, we would laugh over the behaviors we could never have imagined (a coping mechanism for sure), and remember the good old days together. He would ask me about Reed, my children and my life (brain as sharp as always to the end). At the end of a conversation, he would always get a little emotional, always close with a teary, “I love you sweetheart, thanks for calling”, We continued to have those regular calls after my parents died, on my way to work. I felt like my uncle became my friend over the last few years. And, I always felt closer to my parents after a call. I will miss you Uncle Hal. The world has lost a good one in you.

Your niece, Rebecca

Rebecca Kantor-Martin - April 04, 2020 at 05:32 PM



“ Cathy,

Our hearts are so saddened by Hal’s passing. He used to enjoy sharing all the delicious meals he was going to prepare for you, when you got home from work. He loved you so much. His passing leaves a void in all our lives. We send our deepest condolences to you and you family at this most difficult time. We were fortunate to know Hal and like I told you he was the first person to welcome us to the Barclay. Our lives were richer for knowing him and poorer for losing him.

Donna & Gene DeMarco

Donna & Gene DeMarco - April 04, 2020 at 03:01 PM