

## ROBERT BRUCE

ROBERT BRUCE Robert M. Bruce, age 94 passed away February 13 2012 in Bakersfield, CA. He was born to Albert and Amelia Bruce, March 16 1917, in Bolivia South America. In 1927, when his Dad (a mining engineer) became very ill, his Mother, (a nurse) and by then three children brought her family back to the United States. In the early 1930's Bob's mother bought a bakery in Barstow; then located on Main St and North First Street. Bob and his siblings helped his mother with the baking while in school. In high school, he taught tap dancing at the old Forum Theatre. Bob graduated with the Class of 1936 from Barstow High School. Shortly after graduating he married Esther Eddy. They had two sons, Gerald and Leroy. Bob began working at age 18 years old for the Santa Fe Railroad. He enjoyed his job and after 42 years he retired. He was one of a few that retired with four trades from BNSF. In 1962, Bob married Evelyn Stafford. They were married for 50 years. He loved trains and had a tremendous collection of R.R. Memorabilia; much of which he donated to the Western America Railroad Museum. Bob was an active member of the Mojave River Valley Museum for approximately 22 years and a Mason for 66 years. Bob loved the desert and very seldom would Evelyn and Bob pass up a western or Indian museum on their trips. Bob is survived by his wife; Evelyn, sons; Gerald (Jackie) Leroy (Kathy), two step-daughters; Carrol Jones and Marsha Elkins, a brother; Angus from Cherry Valley, CA., three granddaughters; Robin Schreiner (Troy), Lisa Shipley (Donn) and Deborah Hart (Gary), two grandsons; Todd and Steve from South Dakota, four step-granddaughters; Cheryl Kunst (Frank) ,Michelle Alexander (Jim), Lynn San Miguel, Laura Buttergradt and many great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, twin sister; Marjorie and grandson; Mark. Bob was cremated and a service "Honoring his Life" will be private.

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