



Harold Rigby Capener was born December 31, 1919 in Garland, UT to Samuel Capener and Clara Oyler Capener. Raised on a farm, he captained the football team at Bear River High and was active in student government there and later at Utah State University, where he met and married Karrol Haight from Cedar City. Within days of their wedding, Harold shipped out as a Marine officer in World War II where he saw combat in the Pacific theater.

After the war, he and Karrol moved to Ithaca, NY where he pursued a doctorate in Rural Sociology at Cornell University. He returned to Cornell in 1964 as a full professor in the College of Agriculture. Prior to that, his career encompassed service with the U.S. Public Health Service, an assistant professorship at Ohio State University, and 6 years in India with USAID. There, he participated in the creation of the Punjab Agricultural University, and worked directly with village leaders and farmers in adopting new agricultural methods instrumental in the Green Revolution, which helped to make India self-sufficient in food production.

Harold was the recipient of many honors and opportunities, including the chairmanship of his Department at Cornell and President of the National Rural Sociological Society. As an active member of the LDS church he served for 14 years as both a District and a Stake President in Ithaca.

While at Cornell, he continued to support international rural development projects in Brazil, Yemen, Pakistan, Guatemala, Egypt, and Liberia.

After retiring from Cornell, he and Karrol returned to Utah, living first in Eden and then Sandy. After Karrol had a stroke in 1991 leaving her partially paralyzed, Harold devoted himself full-time as her caregiver until her passing in 2004. From 2009, he received excellent and compassionate care at Sunrise of Sandy Assisted Living Center, where he was known for his kindness and optimism.

He instilled in his family an appetite for travel and adventure, a willingness to step outside comfort zones and experience the world in all its splendor and diversity. Yet he remained at heart the farm boy from Garland, focused on family, the ideals of hard work and neighborliness. To his friends and his wife he was always just "Cape".

He is survived by three sons—Brian, Napa, CA, Chris (Lynne), Cupertino, CA, Robert (Peggy), Sandy, UT—and a daughter (Lori (Todd) Budge, Sandy, UT. He was preceded in death by his wife Karrol, and an infant daughter, Chari.

The Funeral Service will be Tuesday, October 25 12 noon at the Pepperwood LDS Chapel, 2195 Pepperwood Drive, Sandy. Viewing will be held prior from 10:00 - 11:45 a.m. Interment will be in Fielding, UT at approximately 2:45 pm.