

# William James Pendola

MAY 24, 1919 – JUNE 28, 2012

William James Pendola, other wise known as Bill and sometimes self referred as “the old man”, died on Thursday, June 28, 2012, after suffering a stroke on Tuesday. He was 93 years old. He was a beloved father, husband, and friend. All of his children, his wife, Monique, as well as other intimate friends and family members were able to gather to shower him with their love (and soak in his) for the two days between his stroke and his passing. Although the stroke impaired his speech, he was conscious and lucid, showing his usual wry sense of humor and his sweet other-centered kindness to all who came to his bedside, testimony to his truly magnanimous spirit.

Bill was born in Oakland on May 24, 1919. Soon his family moved to San Francisco. His family home was across the street from the Palace of Fine Arts in the Marina District. He was

the third child of Frank Pendola and Belinda Newsom Pendola, who’s father was a member of the Newsom family, prominent in San Francisco today.

He was younger brother to Frank and elder to Vera and Laura Anne. He spent his grade school days in San Francisco where he attended Sacred Heart and St. Vincent de Paul Schools. Some of his fondest memories were the two years he stayed with his Aunts Nellie & Audie and his Uncle Jim at the Pendola Ranch in Camptonville.

He attended Camptonville High School, and often boasted he graduated magna cum laude from a class of three! (Camptonville High only had freshman and sophomore years). He went on to graduate from Nevada Union and also graduated Placer Junior College.

In 1939 he was attending Cal Tech in San Francisco when he spent an evening watching planes taking off and landing from Alameda Naval Air Station. The next morning he enlisted. He became a Navy pilot eventually reaching the rank of Lieutenant

Commander. He was hunting wild mushrooms in the woods behind the old Ranch with his Italian grandmother when word of Pearl Harbor broke and all leaves were cancelled.

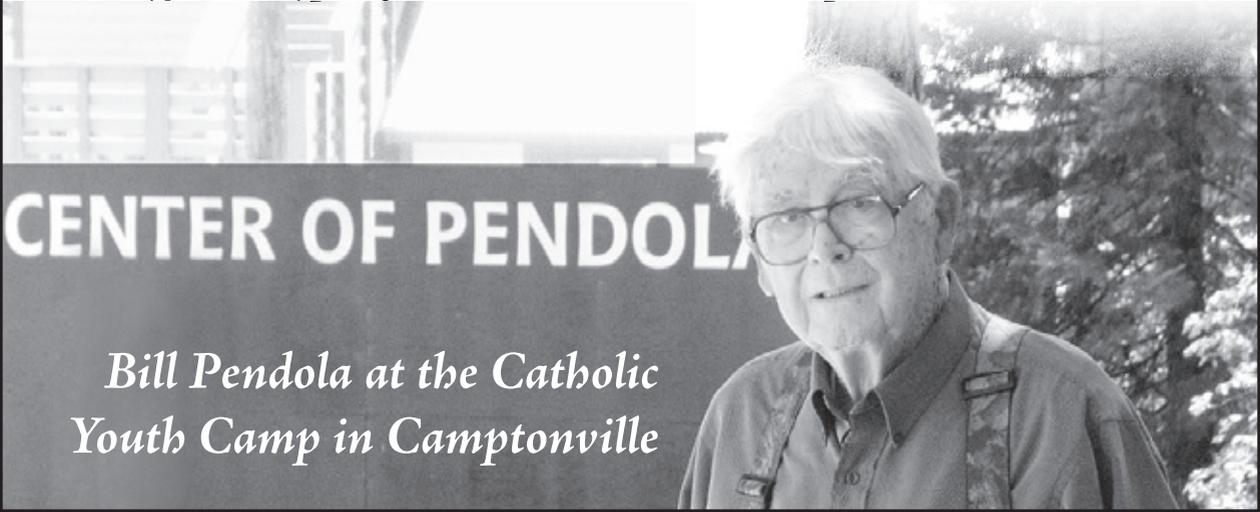
After the war he returned home to help with the family business. Bill Pendola was a true pioneer. His contributions are too long to list. From after the war to the present time he was a major employer, in Nevada County and throughout California as well as the states of Nevada and Oregon, through his many enterprises in ranching and the timber industry.

With his sister-in-law Dolores, he was instrumental in donating one of the family sawmill sites to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Sacramento as a memorial to his brother, Frank, who died in the prime of his life. Pendola Center is a functioning Youth Camp and meeting center to this day. He was also instrumental in donating another old sawmill site in Tuolumne County to the Boys Scouts of America.

More than anything else, family was the most important value in Bill Pendola’s life. He was beloved by all of his children, his step-children, his nieces and nephews, grandchildren, and the many others who were influenced by him as a father figure and mentor in their lives. He was an amazing provider. He has left us with a prevailing sense of gratitude and a foundation of unshakable love. For those who knew and loved him, he has showed us the way to mature into the essence of our best and truest selves. That is who he was at the end, and who he will remain forever: essential and abiding love that does not die.

He is survived by his wife, Monique Pendola; his six children, Bill Pendola, Jr., Marilyn Pendola, Carole Pendola Maudsley, Diane Pendola, Kristen Pendola Allen, and Nicholas Pendola; and his two step-children, Carolyn and Joe Bulloch as well as his grandchildren, great-grands, and many wonderful nieces and nephews.

**A Rosary will be held on July 12 at 7:00 at Hooper and Weaver, 459 Hollow Way in Nevada City. Funeral Services will be held at 3:30 on July 13 at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, 235 Chapel Street Grass Valley. A reception will follow at Empire State Park, 10791 E. Empire, at 5:00.**



*Bill Pendola at the Catholic Youth Camp in Camptonville*