



Marvin James Nischan

April 22, 1933 - April 28, 2026

Marvin James Nischan was born on April 22nd, 1933, to Dolores Murtaugh and Andrew Marvin Nischan in Los Angeles, California. He became Captain of his high school golf team, and was a caddy on the weekends at the Hollywood Golf Club.

Sometimes he was asked to fill in to complete a foursome, and was able to play alongside the likes of Clark Gable and Ben Hogan. Marvin fell in love with sports thanks to his Uncle Vic. He was sponsored on the PGA Tour by his Uncle Jim. During that time, he was approached by a Nashville country club to become their Assistant Golf Pro, which he accepted. On his first day on the job, he met Phoebe Wills Clark, who would become his wife of 68 years.

He began selling insurance policies door to door for National Life and Accident Insurance Company. After two years, he began working in the home office, later becoming Treasurer. After twenty seven years, he retired and went to work for his brother-in-law George Wills Crook at The Motorcar Company.

Because his faith was central to his life, he used his treasury expertise to keep the books for several mission organizations, including Christian Outreach, Beech Creek Fellowship, and Mission Development International.

Some of his happiest times were when he and Phoebe went on trips to

Ukraine with MDI, where he coached those wanting to start small businesses.

He served as Deacon and Elder at First Presbyterian Church, Christ Presbyterian Church, and Christ Community Church and made long-lasting friendships at each.

He was a beloved "Papa" to his five granddaughters, a loyal and generous friend, an agreeable golf partner, and a faithful participant at his Thursday morning men's Bible Study.

One of his secret skills was writing a poem for each family member on their birthdays.

Marvin is survived by his wife Phoebe, his two children Mimi Heldman (Russ) and Christopher Marvin Nischan (Leisha), his granddaughters Mary Deaton Heldman, Mamie Craig Heldman, Elaina Brook Nischan, and Lindsey James Nischan, his sister-in-law Emily Keeble Crook, and many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his sister Barbara Nischan Boegler and her husband Kenny Boegler, his brother-in-law George Wills Crook, his sister-in-law, Eleanor Clark Kelley and her husband Everett, and his oldest granddaughter Phoebe Clark Heldman.

The family is grateful for the kind, good care he received from Monica Doumas, Doreen Sanchez, Bennie Downey, and Jewel Veals.

A graveside service will be held at Mt. Olivet on May 22nd at 10 o'clock in the morning with a visitation at The Centennial Club (2805 Abbott Martin Road) from 2 until 4 in the afternoon. Honorary Pallbearers are Jim Stadler, Lem Stevens, and the members of the Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study.

Donations in Marvin's honor may be made to Mission Development International, 326 21st Avenue North, Suite 203, Nashville, 37203. (www.MDImentors.org)

Cemetery Details

Mt. Olivet Cemetery

1101 Lebanon Pike
Nashville, TN 37210

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAY 22. 10:00 AM (CT)

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
1101 Lebanon Pike Nashville, TN US
Nashville, TN

Visitation

MAY 22. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

The Centennial Club
2805 Abbott Martin Rd
Nashville, TN 37215

Tribute Wall



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Marvin James Nischan.*



May 06 at 03:48 PM



“ *David I. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marvin James Nischan.*

David I. - May 04 at 04:32 PM



“ *David I. purchased the Divine Light for the family of Marvin James Nischan.*



David I. - May 04 at 04:32 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Marvin James Nischan.*



May 04 at 12:48 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Marvin James Nischan.

May 04 at 12:48 PM

DS

“ *Mr. Marvin was an extraordinary person, the kindest soul you could encounter. I had the privilege of caring for him for a while, but our bond transcended work; we became friends, and I am deeply saddened by his passing.*

Mr. Marvin lived a life devoted entirely to his family. His heart was full of love and unwavering commitment to those he cherished most. His faith was not only spoken but demonstrated through kindness, humility, and courage.

Mr. Marvin and I shared simple joys together, often meeting up for pancakes at Cracker Barrel or grabbing coffee and donuts at the Donut Den. Even when we couldn't meet in person, we would talk on the phone to catch up and be a listening ear. My goal was always to make him laugh; in all honesty, I could get him to be downright goofy at times also. His laughter, always brought me joy. These small moments remind me of everyday blessings and will forever hold a special place in my heart.

Remembering Mr. Marvin's kindness, warmth, and friendship brings me peace, even in sadness, knowing I was fortunate to have him in my life.

My dear friend; you will be missed



Doreen Sanchez - May 01 at 11:45 PM

DB

So sweet! Thank- you for sharing these fond memories, and for caring for him. He was a very kind , thoughtful and funny person :-)

Debbie Bannister - May 12 at 10:22 AM