GEORGE P. GUNNING
November 27, 1935 — February 14, 2019

MEMORIAL BOOK DEDICATED TO GEORGE GUNNING
BY THE CALIFORNIA ALARM ASSOCIATION
By those who knew him, those who learned from him, those who worked with him, and those who love him
With an industry that is more than 100 years old, and Associations who have benefited from volunteer service for more than 50 years, the candidates for the California Alarm Association George A. Weinstock Award for Lifetime Achievement and Service to the Electronic Security Industry are many.

Anyone who is in the business knew George Gunning and his abundance of service, leadership and mentoring. From Los Angeles, throughout California, and across the nation, the applause and outpouring of support for the CAA Tribute Dinner affirmed his selection in 2002.

He was known for his passion.

“I personally appreciated his support and his blunt honesty,” said Mike Miller of Moon Security, who served as Vice President of the NBFAA with George and is past president of the Washington Burglar & Fire Alarm Association. “The passion that he had for supporting NBFAA and the industry had been tremendous.”

He was known as a mentor.

“George was my hero and my mentor and he was wise beyond his years,” said Patty Hartman of Bay Alarm and CAA President. “I appreciated him taking me under his wing for the past 10 years and I am also grateful to Helen for sharing her man with all of us. I love them both dearly.”

He was known as a leader.

“In the 22 years I’ve been involved in industry Associations, I’ve met many dedicated, driven individuals, but non-more so than George Gunning,” said Cecil Hogan, President of the National Burglar & Fire Alarm Association. “He was truly a force to be reckoned with, and that’s a very good thing for the industry. I’m proud that he was a part of our Executive Committee.”

He was focused.

“Ambivalent is not an adjective I would use to describe George,” said Carl Spiegel of ASP Security and NBFAA Past President. “To his credit, he always spoke his mind and I always knew where George stood on the issues.”

He was respected.

“Our industry is proud and honored to have had such a tireless professional such as George Gunning,” said Ralph Sevinor of Wayne Alarm and Central Station Alarm Association Past President. “George worked, in every respect, to raise the professionalism of the electronic detection field.”

And, he was fun.

“George was the life of every gathering,” said Chris Cage, Vice President of Brink’s Home Security, who served on the NBFAA Executive Committee with George. “He had the unique ability to make those long, boring meetings much more enjoyable, and George was a man truly devoted to serving our industry.”

Born in Manhattan

George reflected the strong convictions and steadfastness of his Irish heritage. His mother Bea was born in Ireland, and his grandfather George, Sr. was also born in Ireland. George’s father, George Jr., raised seven children in Manhattan. George left New York to serve in the United States Navy in 1952.

He served in the Pacific assigned to the Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet and was stationed under the Commander as a Navy Photographer. His early pictures of Honolulu show a desolate Waikiki Beach, and he spent his time doing land, aerial and underwater photography. George’s album reflects historic photos of dignitaries and special visitors, including then Vice President Richard Nixon, an audience with Pope Pius XII at the Vatican, and a visit from the New York Yankees following a World Series Championship. He left the Navy in 1956, exiting the service as Photographer’s Mate First Class.

Returning to Manhattan, he went to work in the photo printing business where one of his first tasks was beta testing color printing from negatives. After visiting a sister in California several times, he made the move to the Golden State in 1968 and then eventually became involved in the alarm business in the San Fernando Valley in 1981.

In 1984, George, his son Mark and nephew Mike acquired A.Aabco Alarm Systems, and began building a company that would prosper in the commercial, institutional and residential markets. At the same time, they were building one of the largest subcontracting companies in Southern California. Almost from the beginning, he was involved in professional trade associations, serving on the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Burglar & Fire Alarm Association and as chair of the Fire Committee.

George was a founding member of the Greater Los Angeles Security Alarm Association and went on to serve on the California Alarm Association Board of Directors and eventually as President. He was the founding Chairman of the WBFAA UATC, an apprentice and training program for fire/life safety technicians. George served on the Board of Directors, Executive

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Committee and as President of the Electronic Security Association. He helped form the ESX trade show during his tenure.

In 1998, he merged his company with that of another CAA Past President, Frank Burke, and they established USA Alarm Systems, Inc., in Monrovia where George serves as CEO. His sons, Mark Sepulveda and Sean Gunning, worked with him daily along with Frank’s son Ryan Burke. Mark continued the legacy of service as President of the Greater Los Angeles Security Alarm Association.

It was while he was CAA President that the NBFAA/IACP/NSA Model State Program was established, which proved that integrating alarm systems into community policing enhances public safety. The CAA also adopted the NBFAA Youth Scholarship during his term, an initiative that had been a long-term project of Frank Burke and Napco’s Donna Soloway. In typical fashion, it quickly became an effective and successful outreach for the Association to law enforcement and fire service officials and California children won the national award for several years.

The challenges of managing a business in an increasingly tough and competitive market did not dissuade George from his volunteer service to the industry. While maintaining active participation in the CAA and serving on the CAA Convention Committee, he was selected to represent the NBFAA in a national initiative to coordinate the programs of industry’s national associations, including the Security Industry Association and Central Station Alarm Association. The results of the year-long efforts have been closer ties and more cooperative programming between the organizations in education, training and advocacy of the public safety.

For the CAA, he brought the organization into a relationship with ISC Expo, which has raised the visibility of the organization and enhanced the attendee experience at the annual event in Las Vegas.

He served on the Government Affairs Committee of the ESA and was elected as national Vice President after service for a term as Secretary. George was a member of CAFAA and NFPA and continued to be available as a resource to members throughout California and nationwide. He was active with the CAA Business/Law Enforcement Alliance chaired by partner Frank Burke. Their company USA Alarm Systems participated in the SAINTS Program, donating services to the First AME Church in Los Angeles for the fire and burglary prevention.

And, typical of George, he used the SAINTS model when a random shooting occurred at the North Valley Jewish Community Center, endangering the children being cared for at the facility. In the aftermath, he made a call to his friends at Ademco, and with donated equipment and USA Alarm Systems installation, the systems for the facility were upgraded.

Outside the industry, he was President of his homeowner’s association and was a member of the Chamber of Commerce in his area.

Probably the most significant achievement for the industry has been the development and approval of the WBFAA Fire/Life Safety Apprenticeship and Training Program. A joint effort of the CAA and the California Automatic Fire Alarm Association, George was selected to serve as president of the WBFAA to guide them through the process.

“Many years ago I said ‘George Gunning doesn’t know anything,’ and I’ve had to change that statement to ‘George Gunning doesn’t know anything, except how to get things done,’ as proved over and over, as by the acceptance of our Apprenticeship Program,” said Ron Dalton of ADT Security Service and Past President of CAFAA and a Director of the WBFAA.

And it was not a task easily accomplished, according to the experts and those in the industry. “George helped make the impossible happen with WBFAA in 2002,” said Doug Shackley of Pacific Auxiliary Fire Alarm and a past member of the Board of Directors of the WBFAA.

You knew that you are at an association event or CAA convention when you saw George and his wife Helen, who were married in 1990. A constant companion, she provided the silent strength and quiet support to George as he faced complex and challenging organizational and public policy issues.

George believed in volunteerism, that every person owes an ounce of effort to advance their industry, their profession and their company.

His message to the industry: workforce development, join your association and participate.

To honor his volunteer work, to pay homage to his legacy and to continue the work he had begun, the California Alarm Association has established the CAA George P. Gunning Volunteer Leadership Award. Donation may be made to:

CAA
333 Washington Boulevard, #433
Marina del Rey, CA 90292
George Gunning was an unusual man who won people over with just a hello. George and I not only shared our name, but we shared a love for the industry and for the people who supported it.

I know we will never stand together again on that stage in San Francisco - but his presence will always be in my heart and in my mind. Cancer can destroy the man but not the memory, not the laughs we had together, not the projects we fought (and often won), and not us standing around during cocktails watching the industry grow up around us.

George was a precious human being who people loved to be with. George taught, he fought, and he brought a special gift to the members of the association - and for that everything about him is always going to be all around us.

I will very much miss you my dear friend.

George A. Weinstock
Grandpa,

You are a force to be reckoned with. You not only showed me how to be someone who works hard and earns everything, but you showed us by example and leading the way....

You are not an easy man to get along with, but it was always easy to love you no matter how set in your ways, we always had a bond of its own. Growing up I was a nervous but excited child to see you! Just the same as recently when I got to tell you how much I’ve learned and accomplished as a business woman.

You were always about business! I give you credit to you and my Dad Mark Sepulveda for the instilled strength and guidance passed though the generation of parent to child, to parent, to child. Helping me become a self-sufficient hard-working business and family woman, no matter the struggle or losses along the way.

Thanks for loving me.
Your Granddaughter
Amanda Sepulveda

GOODBYE MY FRIEND

On February 14 2019 we lost a true hero. One who followed his dreams, walked the walk, talked the talk and persevered no matter how difficult the challenge. Surrounded by his loving family, my friend, our friend, George Gunning passed away at age 83. A little more than 35 years ago I met George shortly after he was asked by his sons to provide his business talent that would help them grow their young alarm company. When George accepted this invitation, little did the Security industry realize that a giant had just become an influential contributor to the growth and prosperity of the Security industry. From those early days as a business advisor to this young company George recognized that he had the knowledge, fortitude and burning desire to be an instrumental force in the future and growth of the Security Industry. With Helen at his side, the journey began.

George immediately recognized the strength and necessity of industry associations and became a board member of the Los Angeles Burglar and Fire Alarm Association followed by being a founding father of the Greater Los Angeles Alarm Association where he ultimately became President. Presidencies followed at the California Alarm Association and the National Burglar and Fire Alarm Association.

George’s talent and guidance were instrumental in the success of many local, state and national programs but he would probably tell you that his crowning achievement was the WBFAA Fire/Life Safety Apprenticeship and Training Program which provided the tools and knowledge for young technicians to succeed in the security industry while meeting all state qualifications. George was selected to be their first President and this program continues to be successful today thanks to the strength and perseverance of George Gunning.

Although he has received many recognitions for his contributions there are two that tell you how the industry truly recognized and appreciated George Gunning. They are The George A. Weinstock Lifetime Achievement Award from the California Alarm Association and The Morris F. Weinstock Man Of The Year Award from the National Burglar and Fire Alarm Association.

Although we will never hear those beautiful words again, “youse guys”, George’s profound positive influence will be forever carved in the annals of the Security industry and the hearts of all their members.

Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts, Irving Berlin said it best “the song is ended but the melody lingers on.”

Rest in peace my dear friend.

Harvey J. Eisenstadt
To My Dad,

The man, the legend, the one George Patrick Gunning. My father, I remember the good ‘ol days. Going hiking, camping, vacations together and playing softball in the park. growing up like a regular kid.

I enjoyed working with my Dad around the house, he taught me how to mow the grass, using the edger to make it neat as a pin, of course cleaning it all up in time for dinner. He taught me about working on cars, engines & transmissions too.

The most fun I had beside the vacations in the summer was to go to work with my Dad in his photography business named Blow-Up. It’s not what you think! We produced photo enlargements of prints up to 4 feet wide by 8 feet long. I had a great job working for my dad - everything had to be perfect before we shipped it out and I had fun and made money also.

Fast forward..... after graduating from High School, working in the family business and making a living in the security world of Fire Life Safety seems like just yesterday. Going back decades working with my Dad attending Association meeting, events, Expos, Police Departments and the like. Learning how my Dad made things happen was amazing. Whether it was at the board meeting at CAA, local meetings with public figures at City Hall or just plan when he needed things to get done I will never forget. He was for anyone and everyone who has a cause or need - he was there for them. Dad, you will never know how much I will miss you and believe you me I still have lot more to learn from you.

I know, I know... I will be asking myself from now on “What would my Dad do?”

I love and miss you,

Mark Sepulveda

Dearest George,

I want to say a special thanks to my father-in-law George Gunning for always being there for us, always treating me with respect and honesty even when you said “you’s guys”. He will be greatly be missed by many, but by his family most of all. I am deeply grateful and appreciative to have been a part of his family as well as his extended family in the Industry.

Joan Sepulveda
Napco mourns the passing of George Gunning, and offers sincere condolences to his friends & family.

An omnipresent leader, uniter, and defender of the industry,

Encouraging those in security, to be proud of their work, making a difference in the world,

George Gunning made his mark in both, always bringing honor to us all.
We share in this time of grief but also share in the love and memories of George Gunning

Lessing & Sandy Gold

In Memory of George.

A true Leader of our industry, who will be missed.

Alan and Tobi Pepper

“The work praises the man”

See you when I get there, maestro.

XOX Bill Collins
George, you were our mentor, friend, confidant and voice of reason.

You always did the right thing, even when tackling large industry issues. Tact wasn’t your strong point, but we didn’t care as you demonstrated leadership from your heart.

Take it easy on the other angels upstairs and ask them, nicely, to join the apprentice program!

*Kirk & Sheri MacDowell*
My deepest condolences and heartfelt prayers for you Helen, Mark, Sean and your families. I will always remember George for his supreme quality in leadership and unquestionable integrity.

May our Lord bless and comfort you and your family.

Cathy Rempel

In Loving Memory of George Gunning

Tony and Susan Smith
Security Finance Associates
ISC SECURITY EVENTS REMEMBERS GEORGE P. GUNNING & THANKS HIM FOR HIS SUPPORT OF THE INDUSTRY

IN MEMORIAM
George was the founding father of the WBFAA-UATC apprenticeship program. He served as President of the California Alarm Association, the Greater Los Angles Alarm Association and the Electronic Security Association.

We would like to honor George Gunning for his contribution and hard work and perseverance to the betterment of the electrical protection industry.

He will be sorely missed.

Rod and Sharon Uffindell
In Memory of George P. Gunning

RAPID RESPONSE MONITORING
Wishing you peace
to bring comfort,
courage to face the
days ahead
and
loving memories
to forever hold
in your heart

*Mitch Reitman*
In Loving Memory of

GEORGE P. GUNNING
NOVEMBER 27, 1935 - FEBRUARY 14, 2019

Thank you for being an inspiration and a hero to this industry.
We miss you, George.

—From the Michel Family and Valley Alarm
NMC CELEBRATES THE LIFE AND LEADERSHIP OF GEORGE GUNNING

George dedicated his career to the advancement of the alarm industry and freely poured his efforts and knowledge into helping all those in the industry through decades of ongoing industry associations. We are forever grateful.
“I know for certain that we never lose
the people we love, even to death.

They continue to participate in every act,
thought and decision we make.

Their love leaves an indelible imprint
in our memories.

We find comfort in knowing that our lives
have been enriched by having shared their love.”

— Leo Buscaglia

We honor your work, your legacy, and
commit to carrying on in your memory.

Jerry Lenander       Dan Van Hart, Jr.
Beth Landau          Sean Higgins      Ryan Makovsky

SYNCOMM MANAGEMENT GROUP, INC.
“Death leaves a heartache
no one can heal,

Love leaves a memory
no one can steal.”

We miss you and pray for peace.

Bart and Missy Didden
Know that what you began will continue to grow and never end.

*The Board of Trustees, Member Companies, Apprentices and Technicians of the WBFAA Unilateral Apprentice & Training Program.*
Our prayers and blessings for George and the family.

Jordan and Mandy Thomasson

Mission500 and friends join in expressing our sorrow for the loss of George Gunning, an industry Icon and great supporter of our cause for many years.

In Memory of George Gunning

Our friend and leader

Sacramento Area Alarm Association
We appreciate all you did.

All you inspired.

All you loved.

Rest in Peace Our Dear Friend

Rick Gombar          John Guthrie
Our deepest sympathy
And prayers for peace and comfort

We honor the legacy
Of George Gunning

And extend our deepest sympathies
To his family

Alan Forman and your friends at Altronix
May the road rise up to meet you,  
may the wind be ever at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
and the rains fall soft upon your fields.

And until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

Big Love From Your Friends at GLASAA

GLASAA
Greater Los Angeles Security Alarm Association
Charles Schwager & the entire BPSD family mourn the loss of an industry icon and our good friend George Gunning.

Our thoughts are with the entire family and friends.

We will remember George ever so fondly.

Rest in peace.

Thank You for Helping to Establish Nevada Security Association
We will miss your guidance and advice.

*The Nevada Security Association*
My best friend.

My mentor.

We love you.

_Patty and Don Hartman_
Bob Navarro: “R.I.P. you were a great man.”

Deborah Rothman: “Wow, what a great man, a friend to the media, champion of the security industry and all-around nice guy. So sad to hear this. My sincere condolences to his family.”

David Michel: “George meant a lot to a lot of people. He left his mark.”
Someone as special as George Gunning will never be forgotten.

He will remain in our hearts forever.

Rest well, my friend.

Chuck Landfried
Scott Schubert: “Great man R.I.P George.”

Chuck Petrusha: “RIP George! Great friend of our industry!”

Chris Rogers: “Thank George you for touching my life with your wisdom, wit, and friendship. From the day we met I looked up to you and always will.”
Connie Hilbert Moorhead: “Sad news. I’ll always remember George for taking me under his wing when I first entered the industry almost 20 years ago. He was a very fair man with a laugh that could be recognized anywhere. He will be missed.”

Paula A Eller: “He was such a good man - he was always so kind to me whenever we saw each other. The industry has lost a truly good man.”
Kevin Lehan: “Mr. Gunning was a class act!”
Mike Capulli: “Rest In Peace my old friend. You always gave more then you received. I was blessed to have known you.”

Chris Cage: “George was a kind caring man. And what a sense of humor. It was a blessing to know him. My heart goes out to his family.”
Peter Giacalone: “So sad to hear of his passing. George was such a great friend to the industry and to us all who were fortunate to have him as a personal friend. May he Rest In Peace.”
Dale Eller: “What a true industry icon, and a great guy... RIP George, and condolences to the Gunning family.”

Lisa Prosser: “George was always very kind to me. He seemed to be a big picture thinker and wanted to lead others to see his vision.”
Steve Brackett: “Great Man!”
George A Weinstock: “George became your best friend just after “hello”. He was a presence in the room. His laugh was infectious. His knowledge was unsurpassed. He did what other people just talked about. He was my good friend and I will miss him very much.”
GEORGE GUNNING
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CAA George P. Gunning Volunteer Leadership Award Fund

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