



**Ivan Irwin Walton (1920 – 1941)**

Ivan Walton was born on November 13, 1920. His father, Fred Walton lived in Palm City, and his mother, Werma Walton, lived in Nestor, CA. His father’s address was Box 99, Palm City, CA and he was a dairy farmer. The 1930 Census shows him living in Nestor farm area in San Diego County. Of note, Merton Shircliffe’s father, Charles, was the census enumerator. Merton is also honored with a street named in his honor.

Ivan Walton was in the Navy and fought at the beginning of WWII. He died on that “Day of Infamy”, December 7, 1941 at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii while assigned to the USS Nevada (BB-36). He was the first casualty of the 83 WWII veterans listed in Memorial Park in Chula Vista, CA and among the first to die defending his ship on the first day of World War Two. In addition to his parents noted above, Ivan is survived by three other brothers Bruce, Vernon and David, all who also fought in WWII. Ivan Walton was a Coxswain in the United States Navy. He was 21 years old.

A brief history of the USS Nevada on December 7, 1941 follows: *The USS Nevada was anchored just astern of the USS Arizona at Ford Island, Hawaii on December 7, 1941. By the time the USS Arizona was fatally hit, the USS Nevada was making preparations to get underway and was firing on the enemy, and had recorded destroying a Japanese fighter at 0800. A five plane raid on the Nevada resulted in five near misses, as the battleship prepared to get underway during the first wave of the attack. By 0840, the Nevada was underway and crept past the USS Arizona. By 0931, the Nevada was listing and under constant attack to prevent her from clearing the channel and making for the open sea. Fearing that the ship might block the channel, the battleship was beached on the northerly side of the main channel. By 1530, the Nevada had her fires under control a half hour later the two officers and 27 enlisted sailors were removed from the ship. A total of 50 sailors assigned to the USS Nevada died that day. Two months later the ship went into dry-dock and later was modernized at Bremerton to be used again in WWII*

It was known that he was awarded the Purple Heart. He was interred on October 29, 1947 and is buried at the Glen Abbey cemetery in Bonita, CA. The Montecito Ridge housing subdivision in Otay Ranch honors his name with a street named in his honor



