SPARKS, Nev. — Allen J. Craig, 76, a resident of Sparks, Nev., died Sept. 24, 2006, at St. Mary's Hospital in Reno following an extended illness.

Born Aug. 29, 1910, to the late James and Luella Craig of Peru, N.Y., the youngest of 12 children.

He served his country honorably in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War and was promoted to a Second Lieutenant in the California Army National Guard and retired as a nuclear inspector at Marc Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, Calif.

A lifetime California Thoroughbred Horse Racing Association member and enthusiast, along with his wife he bred such record holders as Clark Wells, Zany Tactic, Frosty Shades and was the owner and breeder of over 60 horses in his 30 year career as a successful thoroughbred genetic researcher and founder of the Genetics Thoroughbred Foundation. He was beloved by many Jockey Club and California Thoroughbred Association members and had many, many friends scattered all across the country.

A devoted husband of 55 years, supportive father, loving grandfather and loyal friend, Allen Craig is survived by his loving wife, Leona M. Craig of Sparks; brothers, Charles and Donald Craig of New York; sisters, Harriet Metcalf and Dorothy Baker of New York; sons, Walter Craig of Alaska and David Craig of Nevada; daughters, Ginger Sigman and Dawn Wise of California; a brother-in-law, Emil Mario Habesch Sr.; a sister-in-law, Virginia (Marsha) Craig. He has 11 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

As a poet he wrote, "To accomplish great things we must not only act but also dream, not only plan but also believe." He will truly be missed.

At Allen's request, a private service will be held. Cremation will be arranged by Mountain View Mortuary of Reno, Nev.

A memorial service for local family and close friends is planned for Saturday, Oct. 14, at 3 p.m. Please call 324-0526 for information.