

**Norman Balos**  
**09-19-1917 – 04-20-2010**

**Norman Balos, the quintessential gentleman behind House of Props,  
died Tuesday April 20<sup>th</sup> at his home in Marina del Rey.**

**Norm was 92 when he slipped away from us. When he left us, those that  
he loved the most were by his bedside, his wife Lorraine, his daughter  
Michele Davis, and his adoptive son Johnny Anaya.**

**Norm was born in Pittsburg, PA, and he lived there until he joined the  
United States Army in 1942. It was shortly after his service in the army  
that Norm met his wife Lorraine. Lorraine & Norm were married in  
1947, and on their last anniversary they celebrated 63 years together.  
People write loving husband, wonderful father, with Norm, this isn't  
kindness, it's the unvarnished truth.**

**From 1942-1946, Norm served, meritoriously, in the army as a sergeant  
in the 1477<sup>th</sup>, during WWII. During Norm's four years of service to his  
country, he served in 5 campaigns. From storming the shores in  
Normandy, to his time serving in the Pacific. Norm was awarded the  
WWII Victory Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, the Good  
Conduct Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-  
Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, and the Meritorious Unit Award.  
Damn I wish Norm were here to help write this, he had me in stitches  
telling anecdotes of the madcap adventures in Europe that he lived  
through while serving under his alcohol loving captain. Sadly however  
he's not ghost writing this, and I don't dare attempt to paraphrase. I  
can only hope that he shared some of these same stories with you, the  
readers.**

**Prior to establishing House of Props with then owner Al Torf in 1952,  
Norm worked in the auctioning of antiques and fine art. Those of us  
that knew Norm through House of Props know how extensive that  
knowledge was. Norm was a font of invaluable information, and his  
expertise was called upon daily for the 56 years that Norm ran House of  
Props. Norm was akin to having your own personal "Antiques  
Roadshow" at your fingertips. Decorated sets since the 1950's were  
often more historically accurate due to Norm's remarkable knowledge  
in the decorative arts of specific eras.**

**Beyond Norm's leading man's good looks, his extensive knowledge of art & antiques, and his debonair appearance, this was a gentleman with a heart of gold. Norm, with his shock of white hair was always dapper in his dress shirts, sweaters, slacks and his signature cowboy boots, knew no bounds in his generosity. That generosity wasn't simply directed toward those that he loved; it was lavished on all of his friends as well as those lucky enough to have wandered into that hidden gem known as the House of Props.**

**Norm's surviving daughter, Michele Davis wanted everyone to know what an amazing father & husband Norm was. If you were lucky enough to have visited Norm & Lorraine in their beautifully appointed home, the extensive collection of family photographs would attest to that love & affection.**

**Johnny Anaya, House of Prop's current manager, first began working with Norm almost three decades ago. The friendship that Norm & Johnny shared went far beyond two men working together, it developed into an adoptive father, and son relationship. Not simply best friends, rather Johnny was the son that Norm never had, and Norm was a second father to Johnny. They, along with Hector Flores, ran House of Props like one of the many meticulously maintained fine clocks that adorn the walls of House of Props.**

**When Norm left House of Props two years ago, at age 90, it was the end of a Hollywood tradition, and now with Norm's passing we've lost an irreplaceable entertainment industry icon. Norm, you will always be in our hearts, and those of us fortunate enough to have known you, will forever be richer in both generosity of spirit, and in your shared knowledge.**

**His daughter Sandy Balos preceded Norm in death, as did his brother Earl Balos. Norm's wife Lorraine, his daughter Michele Davis, his grandchildren Aaron & Michael Davis, and his adoptive son, Johnny Anaya, survive him.**

**Norm, you enriched our lives immeasurably, we are all better off having known you.**