

# California Dreamin'

My Uncle Terry Celebration of Life Cover

By Christopher William Anton Janson



It was a sad day for me when I found out that my Uncle Terry had passed away, and the time of year made it worse (late December holiday season). My Uncle Terry was AWESOME, because he liked some of the same things I like, including DC and Marvel comic books, The Beatles, and movies.

I started my Uncle Terry Celebration of Life cacheted cover idea by searching my Uncle Terry's Facebook page for pictures of him. After finding some pretty good ones, I asked my Aunt for any pictures of him that she could email to me. She replied, "Yes, but that it would have to wait until the day after Christmas." I was pleased that she kept her word, because I received some pictures from my her on December 26, 2019.

I proceeded to download and sort through the pictures to decide which ones I'd like to use on my cover. After doing so, I selected three of them that I felt were the best. I was now ready to start assembling my cachet.

I began by placing the picture of my Uncle Terry sitting in the chair holding an envelope with the black background on the lower right hand corner of the cachet. Then, in the lower left hand corner of the cachet, I put the picture of my Uncle in his red USC shirt, winking and smiling at the camera. For the third picture, I put the photo of him with his hat on backwards in the middle of the other two pictures as close to the top as possible. That way, I would have room to insert the wording for the cachet. I first put the date, "APRIL 4, 1945", of my Uncle's birthday, along with the date of his passing, "DECEMBER 20, 2019", all in USC colors. Next, I put the words, "CELEBRATION OF LIFE JANUARY 9, 2019", also in USC colors.

With my Aunt Debbie's approval of the cachet, I printed it on the envelopes for my Uncle's celebration. After doing all of the printing, I went to the Verdugo PO to get Hot Wheels stamps, and to the Pasadena PO to get them cancelled. I got this all done on January 6, just three days before my Uncle Terry's Celebration of Life services.

On a related note, I used those three pictures, along with other pictures and music, to create a Celebration of Life video for my Uncle Terry that was played at his services on January 9, 2000. It ran continuously throughout the service. One of the songs that I used in the video, "All You Need Is Love", even got quoted by the Master of Ceremony.

After the lovely service for my Uncle Terry, it was time for the reception at Vince's Spaghetti. There I gave my Aunt the Uncle Terry Celebration of Life covers to give to family and friends. I also kept 3 of them for myself.

**This article is dedicated to my Uncle Terry**

And finally, to quote from Ozzy Osbourne's new  
single: "Been higher than the blue sky.  
And the truth is I don't wanna die an ordinary man."