

Thomas Morgan
San Diego, CA

Date of Death: 3/27/2001

Thomas F. Morgan, 63, died Tuesday, March 27, 2001, after a long illness, at his home in Kensington.

Born August 16th 1937 in Norwalk, Connecticut and raised in nearby Westport, he was the son of Ruth G. and William O. Morgan M.D.

Tom graduated from Valley Forge Military Academy in 1955 and earned an ROTC commission as an ensign in the U.S. Navy upon his graduation from Dartmouth College in 1959. He served in a number of commands at sea including the USS Boxer and as an executive officer on the USS Dealy. Later, Tom served as White House Naval Aide in the Johnson administration and as commanding officer of the presidential yacht, USS Sequoia.

After completing graduate studies at Tufts University, Tom left the Navy to pursue more creative endeavors, starting with a degree in Photography from the Museum School of Fine Arts in Boston.

This led to a career in retail that spanned nearly thirty years. Starting as a display manager at Jordan Marsh, Boston; then on to Visual Merchandising Coordinator at Diamonds Dept. Stores in Phoenix; Corporate Visual Merchandising Director at Ivey's Department stores in Charlotte; and in 1987 he moved to San Diego as corporate Director of Visual Merchandising and Sales Promotion at Woman's World Shops, a nationwide chain of specialty stores.

Illness forced Tom to retire in 1995, but hardly kept him from pursuing many goals and interests. He enjoyed playing the piano and walking in Balboa Park. He was actively involved in the American Lung Association's Better Breathers Club as well as the UC San Diego Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program, where he learned the skills to live with his shortcomings and even volunteered after hours on the program newsletter. Tom also was a volunteer at St. Paul's Episcopal Church until his illness forced him into the hospital where he lived with the assistance of a ventilator for over a year.

Tom finally returned to his home, much weakened, with the help of San Diego Hospice on March 5th. Happy to be home after so long, for ten days he was in good spirits and enjoyed the company of friends, his two cats and home cooking. His condition worsened though and Tom passed away peacefully in his sleep in the early morning hours of Tuesday, March 27th.

Tom will be remembered for his intelligent wit, his kind and generous demeanor, and for the courage and fortitude with which he fought to live. Tom is survived by his long time partner, Edward Mock of San Diego, and his brother, William O. Morgan of Plattsburgh, New York.

A memorial service will be held April 21st. at 3:00pm at St. Paul's Cathedral, San Diego.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Toms honor to: UCSD Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program-Call (619) 543-7333 or to St. Paul's Cathedral 2728 Sixth Ave. San Diego, 92103.