

Mauro J. Dentino

April 16, 1938 – September 20, 2020



Mauro J. Dentino, 82, of Yorba Linda passed away at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 20, 2020, at home surrounded by family. He is survived by his children Deborah Terrien and Mauro “Joe” Dentino, Jr., and his grandchildren Kyle and Desirae Terrien.

Mauro was born on April 16, 1938, in Peoria, Illinois, to Michael and Arnita (Barto) Dentino. From an early age he set for himself the goals of becoming a scientist and marrying

the best woman possible, and he achieved both. On June 23, 1962, he married the love of his life, Theresa, who preceded him in death on July 12, 2011.

Educated at Dartmouth, USC, and UCI, Mauro used his intellect and tireless work ethic not only in the fields of science and engineering but also in running several family businesses. With a master vision to bring his immediate and extended family together, he turned an empty plot of land in Yorba Linda into a Christmas tree farm and invited generations of relatives into his home to join him on this project. Over the course of decades, countless nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and friends who knew Mauro and Theresa’s house as a second home have been nurtured by their example of hard work and family unity.

Viewing will be from 5:00–7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 24, at McAulay and Wallace Mortuaries in Yorba Linda.

His funeral mass will be at 10:30 a.m., Friday, September 25 at St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church in Yorba Linda.

Burial will be at 11:00 a.m., Monday, September 28 at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Orange.

Memorial contributions may be made to Mauro's nephew, Father Darren Dentino: Missionaries of Charity Fathers, 650 Dennery Rd., P.O. Box 530809, San Diego, 92153.

George Whitehead, Fellow Dartmouth and Thayer Classmate has provided additional information about Mauro which follows.

As a result of my attempting to phone our College and Thayer School classmate, and my long-time friend as a result of our employment with different divisions of North American Aviation in Southern California out of Thayer School, I discovered that Mauro Dentino had died last September 20, 2020 at his home in Yorba Linda, CA. He went to work for NAA Autonetics Div. and I for NAA, Space and Information Systems Div. in the Apollo Spacecraft Communications Subsystem Group. NAA/S&ID was the prime contractor for the Apollo Spacecraft. Mauro and I, and our families, saw each other and joined in many activities together during my family's 15-year residence in So. Ca.

While the main obit paragraph is well written, it really doesn't do justice to Mauro's career and life post-College. He retired as Chief Scientist of the Marine Systems Division of Autonetics Div of Rockwell, originally North American Aviation, now absorbed into Boeing. Along the way, while a full-time employee of Autonetics, but obviously with generous time off for academics, he obtained his PhD from University of California, Irvine around 1970 in the field of optical signal processing. About that time, with a few thousand dollars inherited from his Father, an Italian grocer in Peoria, IL, Mauro began investing in rental real estate in Anaheim and environs, which was mainly managed by his wife Terry (Theresa), who both enjoyed and was very competent in business management. They parlayed that business along with developing the Christmas tree business mentioned in the obit, into a very successful family business now managed by his son, Mauro J. Dentino Jr. The Yorba Linda property, acquired just before the '70s Arab oil crisis, also featured a fairly mature oil well which continued to pump about 8 barrels per day, Not a bad annuity income in itself. Sadly, Terry died of cancer in 2011.

I last met with Mauro and his family in September 2007, when my wife and I, both just retired, spent a week in So. Ca. during a 7 1/2 week cross-country round trip. We had lived in So. Ca. for 15 years from 1962 to 1977 and were close family friends with the Dentinos. Our oldest two kids, girl and boy, were the same age as their girl and boy, and we enjoyed a lot of family activities together. During that 2007 visit I was alarmed to learn that Mauro had become diabetic requiring insulin injections. When I learned of his

death a few days ago by calling his daughter Debbie, I learned that he had been bed ridden for the prior two years, having broken his hip and not being eligible for surgery as a result of his diabetes. Not only that, but Debbie herself had suffered two strokes in 2020 and was still in a prolonged period of recovery. With his entrepreneurial family business success, I know from our 2007 visit that Mauro and family had achieved great financial success. I have always considered him the hardest working, and most admirably successful of my friends.