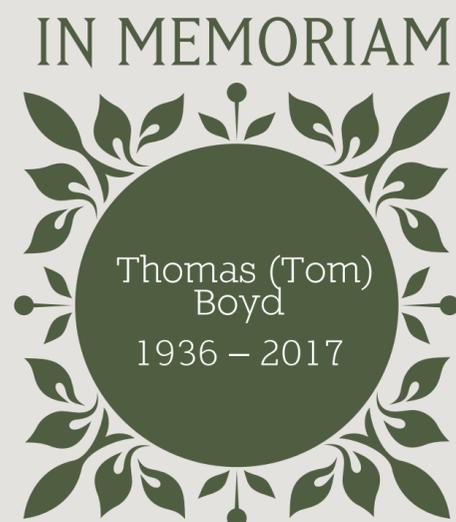


DONORS:
Diane Boyd and family



Written by Diane Boyd

Tom's love for flying fueled his passion for falconry and his career as an Air Force pilot. Born 2/10/1936 in California, Tom lived in Milbrae in the San Francisco Bay area. Even before he was in his teens, Tom marveled at the soaring wings of a red-tail and the dash of a sharp-shin. His passion burst into action when, at 14 years old, he learned that hawks could be caught, trained and flown free. From that day forward, Tom found his first love – Falconry!



In characteristic manner, when he became interested in anything he pursued it in depth, he soon learned to make his own falconry furniture and traps, and began to study the natural history of raptors including observing birds in the woods and on the cliffs of the San Francisco peninsula. He quickly demonstrated his hood-making prowess -later becoming an expert- when he made and regularly used a hood for his first

kestrel. The family garage became a mews that housed kestrels, red-tails, a prairie falcon, a cooper's hawk, a snowy owl (no one can remember where he got the owl), and a golden eagle.



He built perches into the back seat of his car to transport his birds when he took them out. It was a great little car in pristine condition; he should have been polishing it up to take girls out on Saturday night!

After flying birds for a few years, he had acquired a small group of comrades that shared his passion. The group gathered often enjoying their birds and their unique hobby which very few understood.



He was always looking for ways to earn money, and boy did he find a great avenue for that! Since he was always climbing hills and mountains looking for birds he also came across a lot of rattlesnakes. He began capturing the snakes and taking them home. He contacted University of California to see if they were

willing to buy rattlesnake milk for their research. It was the start of a relationship that lasted for several years. Tom milked the snakes and every week he would take it to the U. of California. This kept him in 'bird' money for quite awhile.

As a Master Falconer, he was locally known in the Spokane area for his inventive perch designs. Tom loved woodworking and managed to merge the two things he loved: flying falcons and creating many artistic perch stands, and becoming an expert in making hoods.

Tom served in Vietnam as a member of the Green Hornets. He retired after 30 years of flying for the Air Force. During his Air Force career he accumulated numerous awards, including meritorious air medals and the several Distinguished Flying Cross medals. It's no surprise to anyone that knew Tom he was recognized for flying over 5,000 hours of flight time with no accidents.



Tom lived his life with an adventurous and challenging attitude. He was interested in simply life itself and you couldn't help but be drawn in by his enthusiasm! He had a greater understanding of life than most due to

his love and devotion to many winged hunting partners over his 40 plus years as a Master Falconer.

Caring for and hunting with birds of prey gave Tom a unique look at nature – close up and personal. His understanding of falcons was evident in the partnership he had with them. Over the years, Tom flew everything from a Great Horned Owl to an Eagle.

Somewhere in Heaven, I know he assigned himself to keeping all the Angel wings in tip top condition! What else would give him such happiness!

"TAIL WINDS, BLUE SKIES AND HAPPY LANDINGS TOM."
'TIL WE MEET AGAIN.'



