

# Jim O'Connor



Jim O'Connor passed away on September 30, 2009, after complications from a heart attack. Born May 14, 1933 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the O'Connor family moved to San Francisco when Jim was four years old. After graduating from high school, Jim joined the Navy. At the age of 19, he married his sweetheart, Patricia, to whom he was married 56 years. For 30 years Jim operated a carpet and upholstery cleaning business that his father started in

1937. During this time, Jim and Pat raised three children: Kevin, Kathy, and Julie.

Throughout his life, Jim was involved in his community. He served on the city council for eight years and was the mayor of Millbrae, California for two. Jim also did community service, from local high school projects to state-appointed board positions. Jim's enjoyment of golf led him to join Green Hills Country Club, where he served as a board member.

After retiring in 1985, Jim and Pat turned their hobby of horseback riding into a fulltime passion that involved showing and breeding Morgan horses. When the number of horses in their herd became large, they moved to Auburn, California, for better training facilities.

As Jim and Pat's children grew up and got married, the family expanded to include 10 grandchildren. Jim felt blessed that he was able to actively participate in their busy lives. When Jim and Pat felt secure

that their children's families were succeeding on their own, they began to enjoy the experiences and travel that the motorcoaching world had to offer. They purchased their first Marathon coach in 1996 and became loyal Marathon Coach Club members. From the beginning, Jim and Pat rarely missed a rally, which resulted in wonderful friendships with people from across the country. Because Jim valued the club and wanted to ensure its success and growth, he volunteered his time over the years to make sure this would happen. Jim served as a nominating committee member, board member, and was the rally committee chairman from 1999 to 2003.

Jim loved life and all it had to offer. His greatest love was family—the whole family—including everyone he ever met. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him, and especially by those whom he honored with his close friendship. •

## CARING THOUGHTS: *Our Condolences to All*

Over the past several months some Marathon Club members have been faced with challenging personal issues: family members have passed on, major surgical procedures have been performed. Marathon Coach wishes to acknowledge these people. Their strength and courage is an inspiration to us all.

Past club member *Roy Lutrel*, husband of Gail, was recently diagnosed with cancer, for which he is receiving chemotherapy.

## *Help Your Sunshine Committee!*

If you hear about club members who are sick or have suffered losses in their families, please let your Sunshine Committee know; they'll get in touch with a card or a phone call. Please share this information with Committee Chairperson Esther Bjorklund ([esther@bjorklunds.com](mailto:esther@bjorklunds.com) or 303/912-2689) or Office Administrator Deb Johnson (800/234-9991).