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in Memory of*

Anthony Tornay



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In Memory of Anthony Tornay

October 6, 1929 - June 22, 2015

Obituary

Anthony "Nini" Tornay was born October 6, 1929 in San Francisco, CA to Manuel & Rose Tornay who predeceased him as did his brothers Frank and Manny. Growing up in the North Beach section of the city, Tony developed a love of sports at an early age especially baseball. He could always be found playing ball somewhere with his friends after school and on weekends. He continued playing baseball through high school graduating from Galileo High School in San Francisco. He was offered a contract shortly after graduating to play with the San Francisco Seals as a catcher in the Pacific Coast League. Although most of his baseball career was spent with the Seals (1947-1957) he played for one year in the big leagues with Kansas City and one year with Pittsburgh. He also played winter ball in Mexico and the Dominican Republic. He retired from baseball in 1960. He was once asked if he had any regrets in his 14 year career. He said "Not one, never! It was fantastic. I met so many people, good people and loved the traveling. If I could go back and do it all over again, yes I would." Another passion of his was grand opera. That love of opera grew and Tony always had an ear for the tenors. He had a large record collection and when traveling in his baseball days would bring along his record player and records. His roommates learned a lot about opera and heard beautiful music. To this day we still have a large opera record collection as well as opera tapes, CD's and DVD's. Tony liked nothing better than to spend an afternoon listening to all his favorites. I suspect he is doing that right now. Eventually he found his way to San Diego where he met his beloved Chris and their love story began. It has been said he has an infectious smile that could light up a room and indeed it did. He was a kind and gentle man. He was loved and will be greatly missed by the love of his life, Chris and his step-daughters Deborah Sawatis and her children, Dakota Sawatis, Sydney Sawatis and Cheyenne Sawatis of West Jordan, Utah and Suzanne Stanley of El Cajon, CA.

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