



Dr. George Michael DiRienzo Jr.

August 11, 1950 - June 6, 2020

Dr. George Michael DiRienzo, Jr. aka Midnight George 1950-2020

George was born on February 11, 1950 to Dr. George M. DiRienzo, Sr. and Frances (Grosso) DiRienzo in Sendai, Japan where his father was stationed while serving in the Air Force during the Korean War. His brother Thomas was also born in Japan and in 1952 the family relocated to California and in 1953 to Napa. The family grew to 5 children and in 1958 their father passed away leaving Frances to raise the kids alone. Many friends remember their house on Garfield Lane as a great place to live and play.

George attended St. John's Catholic School, Redwood Jr. High and graduated Napa High School in 1968.

He then attended Napa Community College, Chico State University where he received his BA and MA and then Florida State University for his PhD in Sports Psychology.

George loved sports and fell in love with the game of golf. He was known by all on the links, and was an excellent golfer with no handicap. He was also known as a lover of professional wrestling and always looked forward to the next WrestleMania. He was a lifelong Warriors and Giants fan.

He learned to play guitar early and was in a band called The Bedford Village with four other friends while in high school. In later years when his health made it impossible to golf any longer, he dusted off his guitar and started to play and compose music. With an introduction to the music scene in Napa by his friend Rocco, Midnight George, as he was known, became more serious about his rock and roll and was soon joining bands onstage. He was a regular fixture at the local open mic scene and even helped to start a few bands full of top musicians. He knew the lyrics to thousands of songs and a few years ago began performing his own original material.

George was also a pinochle player and played with the same group of guys since he was 18 years old. They were his "other" family and they all remained very close for 50+ years.

Although George had a PhD, he always loved art and when he got back to Napa from school, he began his career as a graphic artist and computer tech designing websites for businesses in the valley. He was self-employed and ran Midnight Graphics until his death.

George was known as a nice guy who lived his life the way he wanted and did not compromise his desire to always do things the way he wanted. A bit of a nomad, a bit of a hippie, but was never a loner even though he never married. He loved his friends and his family and most people that he met and most of all, he loved his cat Lola. She came into his life in 2014 and he adored her. She now resides with one of his good friends.

He was predeceased by his father George, his mother Frances and his brother Thomas. He is survived by his brother Robert, sister Janeen, brother James and sister in law Julia, sister in law Geri, his nephews Frank, Darrell, Jeffrey, niece Connie and great nephews and niece, Timothy, Braydon, JJ and Leah. He is also survived by his extended family Jim and Karen, Dan and Linda, Glenn and Kathy, Ira, Doug, Al, and his many loving friends.

A special thank you from the family goes out to Candy who was always checking in on George or taking him to an appointment when his health turned and to all those that would show up with something to eat when he couldn't get up and make dinner. George passed away on June 6, 2020.

“Well I finally made it to heaven, And God just gave me his gitar
He said you know up here in heaven, You know that everyone's a star.
Then the band said come join in, And just as I began to sing.
Jesus and Elvis they both joined in, And I was singing with the kings” – Midnight George

A celebration of his life, Georgefest-Midnight George's Memorial Party is being put together for July by his friends and family. Details are on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GeorgeFest-Midnight-Georges-Memorial-Party-Page-109777544106386/>

Tribute Wall

MK

“ Miss you George! Love you! ❤️

maggie kelly - March 01, 2024 at 01:31 AM



“ Dr. George Michael DiRienzo Jr.

September 29, 2022 at 04:54 PM



“ Dr. George Michael DiRienzo Jr.

September 29, 2022 at 02:55 PM

MK

“ Hey George...it is your birthday, or, should be your birthday. You passed way too soon. I knew you since you were 6 years old...little George! I am thinking about our nice memories, and missing you! Xxoo Maggie

maggie kelly - February 12, 2021 at 01:23 AM

CO

“ I believe the music scene was Georges favorite place to be, to play, to sing and spend time with his friends. Some of his favorite girls called him Georgy!



Candy Jean Van Oeveren - July 30, 2020 at 04:25 PM

CO

“ *When I met George just a few years ago, we had an instant connection. He was talented, kind, funny, non imposing and had an intelligence that he did not boast.*

The saying from Ralph Waldo Emerson reminds me of George " What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us."

Today I'm attaching a couple of pictures and I will add more later...



candace van Oeveren - July 26, 2020 at 09:49 PM

PL

“ *Dear Janeen, Robert , James and family*
It is with deep sadness to read of George's passing
He and Tom were my dear friends who felt like my family. We had so many fun
times together at your home on Garfield Lane, Redwood, Napa High and on - I
remember singing together in our own attempt of a Hootenanny group, dance
parties, doing homework, Sat. Walks to town and just hanging out - we always
had fun times and lots of laughter. George's big smile and presence among us
will be greatly missed. I know his many wonderful memories will bring comfort to
you now and remain always in your hearts. God's blessings
Rest In Peace Midnight George
With Love and Heartfelt Sympathy
Your old babysitter
Peggy Moen Larghi &Family

Peggy Moen Larghi - June 18, 2020 at 10:36 AM

RR

“ *Been friends with George since we were little kids, I have great memories of*
playing at their big house on Garfield Lane. I never knew George to ever really
get upset about anything. He was a super musician, we will miss him. RIP
George, tell a Tommy hi foe me and your folks and grandparents, I'm quire sure
they are all rejoicing to see you.
Ron Ruggiero

Ron Ruggiero - June 18, 2020 at 10:23 AM

JA

“ Met George on the golf course really appreciated his God given talent. His golfing skills could match any of napa's best he was passionate about his game and lived a life that did accommodate his passion. Played a few scrambles and when attorneys asked me to bring a ringer I brought George all expenses paid we won every tournament we entered. His health did not allow him to play at such a high level but his music did. God bless you George and your family. R.I.P George till we meet again! Joseph He also helped with the Aldridge bail bonds video and played a cameo role along with his nephew over 12 years ago The link follows enjoy Georges acting skills!
<https://marinbailbondsman.com>



Joseph Aldridge - June 18, 2020 at 02:35 AM

HW

“ George was a beautiful, passionate man. He was one of the great character actors of the Napa stage. He will never be replaced. All who grew to love his gentle spirit and infectious smile will miss him always. And now he's playing with the kings in heaven's band!

Hugh Winters - June 17, 2020 at 02:46 AM



I met George shortly after I purchased Bell Signs in 1995.

I needed lots of help with artwork and layout of signage. He bailed me out of so many predicaments, that I always felt guilty of his low fees.

He never had an angry word for nothing. He was always mysterious to me.

I saw him once playing at Silverado Country Club, and I knew nothing of his golf skills then. I stopped playing and followed him around on the course par this and birdie that, unbelievable!

I live at Napa Valley Club across from the home he grew up in. I often have thought of him when I go out the gate. He explained to me that I live in a former prune orchard that he used to play in.

I am truly saddened by his untimely death and shall miss him. He made a difference in my life and I would say He was a quiet Napa hero.

Ken Tubman
Napa

Kenneth Tubman - June 18, 2020 at 02:25 PM



George could make the best spaghetti for all, inject knuckle aka pinochle anytime there were 4 together, accomplished guitarist, and could handroll the best joints

Tommy Libby - June 19, 2020 at 09:41 AM



....and not to forget the tie dye apparel.

Tommy Libby - June 19, 2020 at 10:26 AM