

Obituary - Russell Lloyd Taylor "Russ"

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On Thursday, Aug. 8 in the early afternoon in his Lake Elsinore residence, Russell Lloyd Taylor "Russ" went to be with the Lord. He was comforted by his wife and children. At the time of his death he was 65 years old.

He was born in Springfield, Ohio on June 27, 1948. Russ was the only child of Thelma "Tilly" Taylor and Robert L. Taylor.

As a young boy, he lived in Santa Barbara, where he attended schooling and received a teaching credential at University of California Santa Barbara. He enjoyed surfing, baseball, archery, and golf. Even as a young boy he discovered a love for art and received awards and won contests. This started a lifelong love of art and teaching art.

At heart, he was a teacher. As a result he continued to pursue his personal education. His desire to teach had been an ambition from a very early age. His parents would say that it was the only career he ever pursued. In college he discovered his obsession with golf and continued that hobby for his entire life.

He loved teaching, telling jokes, making posters and calligraphy, which he thought was a lost art. He penned his own style of calligraphy. Most people upon meeting Russ said that he was the nicest person they've met. His students were very fond of him. He was a man of a thousand jokes. Mostly he will be remembered by the way he loved well.

He served six years in the U.S. Navy, where he was a cook. He taught at Fontana High School for 35 years. At the high school, he was active in numerous school activities. He attended dances, football games, and grad nights and was involved in painting drama sets and coaching golf. He became head of the Art Department. In the community, he taught many classes for the recreational center and became president of the Art Association in Fontana.

On Aug. 19, 1989, Russ married the love of his life, Connie. Russ gained four stepchildren. They had four children and raised three nieces. They partnered in foster care and shelter care in Riverside County.

Five years before he retired, he pursued an advanced degree and gained a Masters in technology. Russ retired from being a teacher in 2008.

Russ was preceded in death by his mother, Thelma Taylor, in June of 2007 and his father, Robert Taylor, in December of 2012.

Russ is survived by his wife, Connie Taylor; his children Tonia Hatton, Cathern Hartley, Michael Coyne, Christopher Coyne Williams, Jessica Taylor, Jonathan Taylor, Daniel Taylor, and Mariona Taylor; and nieces, Jeniffer Herrera, Holly Guitierrez and Raychelle Lanier. He is also survived by 21 grandchildren.

Services will be held Saturday, Aug. 24 at 2 p.m. at First missionary Baptist Church, 10819 58th Street, Mira Loma. The family requests potted flowers versus cut.