

Life Tributes

Death Notices and Obituaries in the
San Francisco Chronicle and on SFGate.com.



A Life Tribute or obituary for a family member or close friend may be the most difficult thing to write. This guide is designed to help you through this process, whether placing it through your funeral provider or on your own. In a few easy steps, you can create a Life Story that reflects the legacy of your loved one and brings comfort to those who mourn. Help share the story of your loved one with the world.

- Announce the passing with a traditional Death Notice
- Create a Life Story
 - Share biographical information and personal stories
 - Upload photos and graphics
 - Provide service or memorial information
- Give public thanks to those who have helped through our new In Appreciation Notice
(See reverse side for more details.)

Tips for Writing Life Stories

While every Life Story is as individual as the person being memorialized, there are some basic guidelines to keep in mind:

- Gather basic facts such as date of birth, place of birth, date of death, schools attended, military service history and names of survivors. These will form the ‘frame’ for your Life Story.
- Once you’ve gathered your basic information, add details about the individual’s life to give readers a glimpse into their lasting legacy.
 - What were his/her passions, hobbies, or favorite past-times?
 - Was he/she a member of specific organizations?
 - What did he/she do that touched people around them, or made them unique?
- Be sure to mention close relatives, both living and predeceased.
- Share service or memorial information - including organizations where donations can be made in their honor.
- Last of all – focus on the life lived. Be sure the Life Tribute reflects and celebrates the person everyone knew and loved.

Life Story

(Available in multiple formats)

Honor your loved one by sharing their joys, triumphs, and contributions. Also, make sure to recognize the people who helped shape their lives. This narrative is the legacy of your loved one for future generations to come.

John Elliott

May 2, 1923 - February 23, 2014



Resident of San Mateo
John Elliott peacefully passed away on February 23, 2014. He was an amazing man with charismatic personality, vivacious spirit and unending generosity.

John was born in San Francisco, graduated from Washington HS in 1941 and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force which took him across the country. Later, he attended the University of Hawaii and graduated SF State University where he earned a Master's Degree followed by a full and meaningful career in education. As both a teacher and school administrator, he touched the lives of children, parents, faculty and the community at large. He was incredibly well thought of and respected. Not only did he capably run an elementary school, but he is equally remembered for his personal touch. Always remembered as the principal who made daily pots of homemade soup for children and faculty or the man who arranged to have the US Coast Guard land a helicopter on the children's playground, he left everlasting memories.

His other lifelong joy was salmon fishing and boating trips. Certified as a U.S. Coast Guard Captain with a commercial fishing license, he was actively involved in the SF Marina and Golden Gate Yacht Club where he proudly served as Commodore.

John is preceded in death by his loving wife, Katie Elliott. He is survived by his devoted daughters Rhonda Larson (Aaron) of Redwood City and Hilary Gregg (Richie) of San Mateo and adoring grandchildren Cal & Richard Gregg and Riann & Dawna Gerdoff.

He will be missed by many.

Friends and family may visit Friday, July 11, 2014 from 3pm to 9pm and are invited to attend a Vigil Service 7pm at City Funeral Home, 1550 Main St., San Francisco. A Funeral Mass celebrating John's life will be held Saturday, July 12, 11am at St. Anne's Catholic Church (Funston Ave & Judah St.) San Francisco, followed by the burial service at Elmwood Cemetery, Lawndale.

Death Notice

(Name, Date of Birth, City of Birth, Date of Death, and City of Death)

This should be your first step. Help inform the community immediately after someone passes.

ELLIOTT, John

Born May 2, 1923

San Francisco

Died February 23, 2014

San Mateo

In Appreciation

Express gratitude to those who have been generous and supportive in the bereavement process. As life continues to move quickly, it can be difficult to stop and provide appreciation to those individuals and organizations that may have helped you through this challenging transition. Recognize family members, friends, hospitals, hospice agencies, funeral providers, or anyone who has lent a helping hand, with this thoughtful gift of appreciation.

We Are Grateful

The family of John Elliott wishes to express our thanks to all the family and friends for their love and support during this difficult time. So many have sent thoughtful cards, ordered flower arrangements, and donated to John's favorite charity in his name.

We would also like to thank his caregivers, Charlotte Peak and Health Hospice, for their kindness and City Funeral Home for creating a beautiful service for Dad. Our hearts go out to all of you.

Important reminders

- Accuracy is very important. Be sure names, schools, cities, etc. are spelled correctly and that dates are correct.
- If you are placing the Life Tribute yourself, make sure to include the name and telephone number of the funeral home that is handling the arrangements for further verification.
- Proofread the final version carefully. It is best to have someone else review it as well.