

Dan Taafe, an athlete of mind, body, and spirit



Dan Taafe was a Dolphin for twenty-five years when he died in 2023. If you never had the pleasure to meet Dan, who stood six-feet-two tall, it's because he moved quietly amid the noise and haste. Although Dan, a retired land-use attorney, was a man of reserve, he took to the Bay, the Club, and its camaraderie like, well, a harbor seal. He was often amused by the seldom-dull conversations in the sauna. Dan was born September 28, 1940 into a native California family. The Taaifes are descendants of the Murphys, who were among the first to discover gold in 1849. Dan grew up in Los Altos and inherited his family's love for the Sierra Nevada, where he backpacked many a summer. Some of Dan's paternal antecedents came over Donner Pass the year before the fateful Donner Party. Even before his Dolphin-hood, Dan was drawn to dipping in the icy snowmelt of cold mountain streams. Yosemite was in his blood from his childhood, where he marveled at the now discontinued firefall over Glacier Point.

Dan was a true-blue San Franciscan. He was healthy, active, running or power-walking and swimming until, a few months before his death, he was suddenly felled by extreme fatigue. It took a few weeks to get a correct diagnosis—metastasized

pancreatic cancer. He faced dying with grace, equanimity, and humor as friends and family rallied round. Dan loved his life and was not eager to leave us, but he reckoned he had lived his time fully, successfully, and with love for the good stuff. As a close friend, I think I can say he had no regrets. He is survived by many nieces and nephews, his older sister Julie, and his beloved Patty Mills. *Camille Cusumano*

James Morino



James Morino a 75-year Life Member, passed away on March 28, 2024, at age 93. He was our longest living member, joining the club in 1949 along with his brother Ray. The brothers were our celebrated Pacific Coast championship crews from 1949 to 1952. Also a strong swimmer, Jim swam the Golden Gate many times, including a second-place finish in 1950. Away from the Club he was a plumbing inspector for the City before retiring in 1991. Jim remained loyal and generously donated his scrapbook, photographs, rowing medals, and crew letter sweater to our Archives. *Rich Cooper*

