

Thomas P. Murphy

Visitation:

Saturday, January 17, 2009
10:00 AM until 11:00 AM

Service:

Saturday, January 17, 2009
11:00 AM
Hackett-Livingston Funeral Home
208 W. Clarinda Ave.
P. O. Box 395
Shenandoah, IA 51601



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Thomas Paul Murphy, 81, former Shenandoah resident and alumnus passed away on Tuesday, January 6, 2009, at his home in La Jolla, California following a bout with cancer.

Thomas Paul Murphy, Tom, was known for his wonderfully active, bright mind. He was intellectually adventurous, curious, and nimble. (A lifelong Republican, he voted for Obama in November.)

He hailed from a small town in Iowa, raised as the only child of a widow. He graduated high school at age 16, then went to the University of Iowa to major in journalism. While there he launched a company that printed school calendars, with ads in the margins. He sold it upon graduating, and headed to New York City to work in the advertising industry.

He later went to Harvard Business School, graduating in 1953, and soon after authoring the book "A Business of Your Own". He told his mother he wanted to know how to start a thriving business, so he figured he might as well write a book on the topic. He then immersed himself in business journalism (he covered unions as an editor for Fortune and later wrote a column on venture capital investing and entrepreneurship for Forbes).

Some of his fondest memories were from his years working closely with the chairman of IBM Worldtrade, Arthur K. Watson. When Watson became the Ambassador to France, Tom went with him as a Deputy Chief of Mission. Not content to simply wine and dine, he took up a fight against the so-called "French Connection" whereby heroine flowed from Turkey to be processed in Marseille, France and shipped to the U.S. He knew he was making headway busting the heroine processing facilities, and hence the flow of drugs, when his Mercedes was sabotaged (twice) and his apartment ransacked (twice).

He returned to New York, where he co-founded The Venture Capital Fund of America (which to date has raised \$740 million), and pioneered a form of private equity investing called secondary venture capital. To create a networking spot for other investors, he founded the Connecticut Venture Capital Group. Other similar forums were later created around the country.

He moved to La Jolla in 1983 and soon after devoted himself to philanthropy. He served on the board of the San Diego Foundation from 1994-2001. While there, he founded, chaired, and financially supported the Committee on Social Outcomes, which brought together experts on social issues to discuss ways of creating positive change in the community. He was a generous donor to educational causes and sponsored several scholarships at The Bishop's School in La Jolla.

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His curiosity knew no bounds. For his 81st birthday, he asked for (and received) an iPhone.

The Thomas Murphy Fund at the San Diego Foundation is dedicated to research on social change. To make a donation, the contact there is chairman Bob Kelly, 619-814-1327. The address is 2508 Historic Decatur Road, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92106. Checks can be made out to the Thomas Murphy Fund.

Those left to cherish his memory include his daughters, Ellen Freeman and her husband Robert of Corte Madera, California and Victoria Barret and her husband Philippe of San Francisco, California; three grandchildren, Benjamin Cortney, Claire Cortney and Evangeline Freeman; aunt, Marnie Shaum of Tarkio, Missouri; cousins, Blaine Shaum of Beverly Hills, California and Paul Shaum of New York, New York; other relatives include James P. and Marlene B. Plaster of Lakeside, AZ and Pat Ciocetti of Phoenix, AZ; many business acquaintances and a host of friends.