



Douglas M. Flynn

August 14, 1930 - February 18, 2023

The world has lost a true Southern gentleman. After a long struggle to recover from a fall, Douglas Flynn passed away on February 18, 2023.

He was born to the late Ethel and Homer Flynn in Irvine, Kentucky. An above-average high school student, he excelled in baseball and basketball, earning the nickname "shooter", and going with his team to the Kentucky State championships in 1948.

After high school he joined the United States Air Force and then completed a bachelor's degree at

Eastern Kentucky University and a Masters' degree at Vanderbilt University on the GI bill.

He taught Chemistry at Tennessee Tech and Wilson Community College in Chicago and was a seasonal park ranger for five summers in Zion National Park. The southwest was dear to his heart, a place he visited often.

In 1962 he joined the chemistry staff at Diablo Valley College in California, a job he loved for over 32 years where he joyfully interacted with wonderful colleagues and students.

During those years he pursued his interests in air pollution and volcanology, using sabbaticals for investigations in these areas.

Doug was a man of all-encompassing pursuits. An avid reader he loved history, nature, politics, music.

He loved being outdoors, enjoying hiking, camping, climbing, raising race horses.

In developing his property in Benicia he learned many building skills: plumbing, heating, and wiring, and enthusiastically rode his tractor, abating weeds and grass.

A zealous animal-lover, he insisted that any dog or cat who wandered up must be given a home.

Doug loved to travel the world and to visit his roots, crossing the country over 50 times to return to his beloved home town

Preceded in death by his brother Shirley, he leaves behind his wife of 62 years Mary Lou, his children Patrick, Sally, Richard, (Patricia), grandson Orion, his sisters Martha, (Ed), Pauline, and numerous dear nephews.

Doug loved life and lived it fully. His family will greatly miss his wonderful smile, his strength, his positive attitude, his sense of humor. Our grief knows no bounds. Remember his message: "Every day is a gift."

Gifts in his memory may be made to the DVC Student Scholarship Fund, Pleasant Hill, CA

Visitation will be Wednesday starting at 2:00 pm followed by a Vigil service at 6:00 at Passalacqua Funeral Chapel, 901 West Second Street, Benicia. Mass of Christian Burial will be held 11:00 am Thursday at St. Dominic's Church, 475 East I Street, Benicia. Burial with Military Honors will be held 10:30 am Friday at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 1. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

Passalacqua Funeral Chapel
901 W Second Street
Benicia, CA 94510
(707) 745-3130
info@passalacquafuneralchapel.com
<https://www.passalacquafuneralchapel.com>

Vigil Service

MAR 1. 6:00 PM (PT)

Passalacqua Funeral Chapel
901 W Second Street
Benicia, CA 94510
(707) 745-3130
info@passalacquafuneralchapel.com
<https://www.passalacquafuneralchapel.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 2. 11:00 AM (PT)

St Dominic's Catholic Church
475 E I St
Benicia, CA 94510
(707) 747-7220

Burial

MAR 3. 10:30 AM (PT)

Sacramento Valley National Cemetery
5810 Midway Road
Dixon, CA 95620

Tribute Wall



“ 115 files added to the album *Life Tributes* ”



Passalacqua Funeral Chapel - February 28, 2023 at 12:00 PM

KL

“*Doug was a really wonderful colleague in the Chemistry Department at DVC. He was a strong supporter of students and faculty as well as a terrific (and humorous) teacher. As a devoted board member of the United Faculty union, he championed changes in working conditions to increase the faculty’s ability to provide quality education.*

His Southern charm slipped into his lectures. I hear in my head one reference to a chemistry concept, delivered in a preacherly manner, “Now, if you believe...in equilibrium...” And of course when he referred to the “Good Book”, he held up the chemistry text.

My favorite memory though is in the picture below. This was a flash mob event, way before the rest of the world got into it. And Doug orchestrated it, in 1987. Doug and I were teaching classes on the opposite side of the wall at the same time that year. He was teaching the prerequisite class to mine. On the first day I was describing how molecular motions account for infrared spectral bands. Then I had the students stand and do some of the types of motions to get a feel for it – to music. Minutes later there was a loud banging on my door... “What is going on in there?” He said he’d forgive me if I came in and did it for his class at the end of the semester when he got to that topic.

So we set up that on the designated day, he would complete his lecture with all the notes still on the board and he would put a sturdy chair at the door end of the lecture table. At the prearranged verbal signal in his lecture, 5 minutes from the end of class, I opened his door, blasted “Staying Alive” on my boombox, and several volunteers from my class rushed in and took over. I’d bet the students in his class never forgot that.

Great guy and great chemistry instructor!

Karen Long





Karen Long - February 26, 2023 at 03:26 PM

RF

Thanks so much Karen, for sharing that great memory! Wish I'd been there to see it live!

I know he respected his colleagues and loved being a part of DVC. You all put together a remarkable program, and boosted the educational journeys of countless students. Best to you and yours...

-Richard Flynn

Richard D Flynn - February 28, 2023 at 03:35 AM

RF

“ 1 file added to the album *DougFlynn*



Rich Flynn - February 24, 2023 at 02:20 PM

RF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Rich Flynn - February 24, 2023 at 02:15 PM