

## **Eulogy for Dr Thomas Michael McCormack**

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of my dear friend, colleague, and personal care-giver, Dr. Thomas Michael McCormack, Acupuncture Physician, who died April 5, 2022 at his home in Sarasota after a long illness.

Tom was a native of Scituate, Massachusetts where his father was a carpenter and fisherman. Tom spent much of his youth on the fishing boats at a time when lobsters were practically given away, so he had his fill of them early. In his late teens he joined the US Army, and as a paratrooper in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, he served two volunteer tours of duty in Vietnam in the late 1960's. There he saw considerable combat and was constantly on patrols. Tom was personally commended for his service by President Lyndon Johnson just before he boarded the airplane which would take him back to Vietnam for his second tour. Tom never, ever complained about his time overseas nor the several continual physical afflictions he suffered from the experience, and he would never countenance any praise for his sacrifice. He felt that he simply did his duty, and that was its own reward for him.

Upon his return from Vietnam, Tom went to work for one of the biggest produce brokers in California. Headquartered in San Francisco, he had a happy and prosperous time there but eventually decided to return to Boston, where he attended and graduated from Boston State College, now part of UMASS. There were many famous alumni from Boston State, including Boston Celtics announcer Mike Gorman, political activist Mel King, and writer Jack Beatty. Tom is an unsung hero and should be also acknowledged and remembered as one of the best alumni Boston State put forth.

In Boston Tom met the long-term love of his life, Patricia, who became his cherished wife and best friend. He always, always felt blessed to be her husband. She was the greatest joy of his life, someone whom he deeply appreciated and frequently praised. For years they bought, rehabbed, and managed apartment dwellings together in the Boston area, until they moved to Providence, Rhode Island where they did the same. They had a big home right next to the Brown University campus and had many friends from the Brown faculty. Tom was amazed at how much these distinguished intellectuals valued his street smarts and wanted to learn from him.

In the 1990's Tricia and Tom moved to Sarasota where he became a student of mine at East West College of Natural Healing Arts, from where he earned a Master's degree in Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine in 1999. He became a licensed acupuncturist in May 2000 and for the next 20 years was my own personal physician, masterful in the way he treated my many ailments. Somehow, on his own, Tom learned how to stretch and rehabilitate muscles that were in spasm and taught his many patients to do the same. The pity is that he never codified his unique and effective approach to physical/tui na therapy into a manual to pass on to others.

We worked together the past few years a Nutrition wellness Center in Sarasota where Tom put his knowledge of nutritional remedies to good use. He was a fine practitioner, a good and affable friend to me and many others, and a great husband. He will be sorely missed.

Dr. Harvey Kaltsas, AP