



A Remembrance of Thomas Michael Luedtke

1949—2025



Our dear classmate Thomas Michael Luedtke died of brain cancer on December 16, 2025—he was 76 years old.

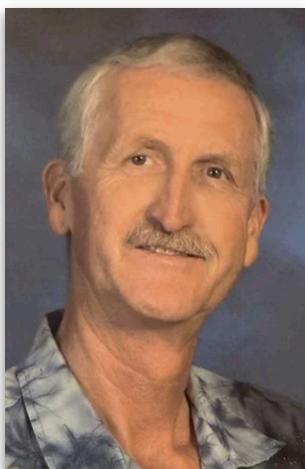
Tom was born in Wisconsin in 1949 but in early childhood moved with his family to Coronado. After graduating from Coronado High School he attended UC Riverside where he earned a BS in Biology. Shortly after finishing his studies, in 1973 Tom sailed across the Atlantic Ocean on a 36-ft sloop, a stunningly memorable experience in an exemplary life full of meaningful accomplishments.

Tom made a career as a horticulturist at the San Diego Zoo staying for more than three decades. He cared for thousands of beautiful and exotic plants at the Zoo, an enduring legacy which he leaves for all of us to enjoy.

Tom coached youth soccer when his children were young and also found the time to be the Scoutmaster for Coronado Troop 806.

Tom played trombone and, over the years, was a member of a number of musical groups, including the Coronado Concert Band, Coronado Swing Band, and the Coastal Communities Concert Band.

Preceded in death by his parents, Charles (Chuck) and Margaret (Peg), and his sister Barbara; Tom is survived by his children Jessica and Nathan, daughter-in-law Michelle, and six grandchildren.



Sources: Tom's family and friends.