

Alastair Angus "Sandy" Murray(1937 - 2015)

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Alastair Angus (Sandy) Murray, born March 31, 1937, in St. Joseph's Hospital in Fairbanks, died of cancer at his daughter's home in Kailua, Hawaii, on Oct. 31, 2015. Raised in Fairbanks through grade school, he graduated from Queen Anne High School in Seattle in 1955 and from Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts, in 1959, returning most summers to work in such jobs as loading cargo planes for Wien Alaska Airlines and fighting forest fires.

After further studies at the University of Washington and San Diego State University, he taught high school English in the San Diego area for 25 years. He returned in the mid-80s to help shepherd his father's insurance agency, Kenneth A. Murray Insurance, through the oil recession, computerizing the agency, upgrading staffing and standards, and developing major company relationships. While here, he served on the boards of the Literacy Council, the Yukon Quest, and Downtown Fairbanks, and was active in Running Club North, creating two annual events and running scores of races in Fairbanks, including multiple Equinox Marathons.

He especially enjoyed excursions with fellow runners to races elsewhere, including Seward's Mt. Marathon, Girdwood's Crow Pass Crossing, and Skagway's Klondike Trail of '98 team relay race to Whitehorse. Leaving the historic agency (founded 1939) in the able hands of his younger brother, Kenneth Hugh Murray, in the mid-'90s, he returned to the Puget Sound area as vice president of a software company, Insurance Automation.

In 1998, he married his second wife, Laura Gambrel, with whom he embarked on an adventurous 17 years. After residing in Olympia, Washington, and Australia, they spent eight years in Costa Rica, first with a B&B and then in the real estate business. Returning to the U.S. in 2012, they eventually made their way back to Olympia, where Sandy continued to maintain his Costa Rican real estate website until moving to Hawaii to spend his final months.

He is survived by Laura Murray, daughters Leslie Brown, of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida; Heather Lutz (Curt), of San Diego; Annabel Murray (Duane), of Kailua, Hawaii, and Maile McCammon, of Wollongong, Australia; his prized grandchildren Savannah Murray, of Kailua; Forrest and Lily Lutz, of San Diego, and Gemma and Jake McCammon, of Wollongong; his former wife, Lani Murray, of Honolulu, and his brother, Kenneth (Nancy), of Fairbanks. Since his recent passing, Sandy has been honored by many who have had the good fortune to know and love him.

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