

## *Joseph Cress Terrell*



Born September 25, 1940, Joseph C. Terrell passed away peacefully on Sunday, September 13, 2009 after a lengthy and courageous battle with prostate cancer. Joe was born in Ft. Smith, AR, and was a member by blood of The Choctaw Tribe – Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. He was raised in Amarillo, TX where he attended both Amarillo High School and Amarillo College. Joe left Texas and moved to California where he continued his education at Orange Coast College and later at Cal State Fullerton. Joe was President of his pledge class and a life member of the Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity.

Joe had an outgoing personality and a zest for life. In high school and in college he was a fierce basketball shooting guard. He also enjoyed competitive snow skiing, as well as racket ball, horseshoes and Bocce Ball tournaments. Always up for a challenge, Joe rode in the 50 mile Rosarita Beach – Ensenada Bike Race without ever setting foot on the ground. In his later years, golf was his passion and he tinkered at club-making and designed and opened the “Broker Box” business. He looked forward to golf weekends with friends at his family lake house and enjoyed reading autobiographical books and “talking politics.”

After college, Joe remained for several years in California, and began his career in Corporate Marketing and Sales and expanded into the Real Estate Management Industry.

Joe was a giving, outgoing person and always thinking of others. He met Olga while volunteering for a non-profit medical organization - The Flying Samaritans of Orange County. With the club they both traveled to remote areas in Baja California to assist the indigent. There he met a young blind girl named Lupita, and sponsored her into Braille School in California. Joe was a devout family man and enjoyed organizing family activities. He was a member of the St. Monica Catholic Church Community and Dad’s Club. His brainchild, “A Night at the Ballpark” tradition, was one of the most fun-filled family events sponsored by the Club. Along with baseball, Joe was an enthusiastic fan of the Dallas Stars hockey team and enjoyed his season ticket seats. Joe also enjoyed traveling and took pleasure in taking the family on a Hawaiian and Caribbean cruise, and vacations to Paris, Europe, Mexican beaches, and many places in the U.S. Joe’s gift of humor challenged him in his later years and he took up Stand-Up Comedy, opened his own comedy class business “Comic Creations,” and inspired others to perform. He performed various times at the Addison Improv and in Dallas and Waco. Joe offered his gift of humor to the Lord to bring laughter to cancer patients.

Joe will be remembered by those who knew and admired him for: his dedication to his work, his zeal on the fairway, his gift for gab and laughter on the stage, his personal love and walk with the Lord, his wife who married him for his “heart of gold,” and his children who looked up to him for wisdom of life. Joe was an honorable friend and a life-changer.

Joe is survived by his wife of 24 years, Olga, his son Cress, his daughter Amber, his sister Janie Dysart of Amarillo, TX and numerous nieces, nephews and other family members.