



Stanley James Gollery

October 18, 1927-June 4, 2009

GOLLERY, STANLEY J. (T.55; F.58) SCA 55 Van Nuys, Min. of Youth; 57 S.D.: Wesley, Min of Ed.; 60 Covina, Min. of Ed.; 67 Escondido, Assoc.; 72 S'y.; PSW 77 L/A; 78 Winslow; 82 Sun City: Lakeview, Assoc.; 84 Hemet, Assoc.; C-P 85; 93 R'd (¶ 452.2c).

Stanley J. Gollery was born October 18, 1927, in Pasadena, California and died June 4, 2009, in West Covina. His parents never owned a car, the family used public transportation, and his father rode his bicycle to work. Stan was the first in his family to go to college. He attended Pasadena City Schools through 14th grade, then graduated from the University of Redlands and the Pacific School of Religion. He was baptized in the Baptist Church, which he attended until moving to Berkeley---he later referred to himself as “a recovering Baptist.”

He began studying piano at the age of five, and his professional career began at age fourteen, when he was asked to play in a jazz band for a dance. He played dances most weekends, which enabled him to save money to pay for his college education. His music was always an important part of his ministry---his youth groups always loved to sing with his unique arrangements, and he knew how to make life fun, as well as serious at times.

Stan was an explorer and would rather not go the same way twice. Family vacations were times of exploring the cracks and crevices of places like Red Rock Canyon and caves and caverns across the country. He brought history alive by pointing out the historical significance of each new place, and always knew which factory tour would result in free goodie samples for his growing family. He continued his service in retirement through playing piano at various churches, learning Spanish, and working with Habitat for Humanity. His active retirement also included travel and gardening, which he did in every home he lived in, no matter the climate or space available.

Predeceased by son, Steven J. Gollery. Survived by his wife, Virginia Ruth Gollery, Children (Spouses): Sharon McCart (Dale McCart), Janet McKeithen (Floyd McKeithen), John Gollery (Margie Gollery), Martin Gollery (Suzanne Gollery), Grandchildren: Matthew McCart, William J. McKeithen, Jamie McKeithen, Sharon Ruth Gollery, Twyla Alita Gollery, Mariposa Gollery, Spencer Gollery, Devyn Gollery, and Daniel Gollery.

Submitted by Virginia Ruth Gollery