

William Edward MAHAN



William Edward Mahan of Sacramento, California, died on August 18, 2016, at the age of 85. He is survived by his loving partner of 35 years, Penny Harding, and her daughter, Persephone Harding (Teri Toombs) of Portland, OR; his brother, Boyd Mahan (Helen) of Carlsbad, CA; his first wife, Virginia Hall (George, dec.) of San Anselmo, CA and their daughter, Alyce Mahan Brownridge (Dennis) of Las Vegas, NV; two grandchildren, Lucas Albrecht (Destiny) of Santa Rosa, CA and Ellie Brownridge of Las Vegas, NV; and two great-grandchildren, Faye Hale and Kaya Albrecht of Santa Rosa, CA; and countless dear friends. He was preceded in death by his and Virginia's daughter, Laura Bea Albrecht, and his parents, Lola and Wilbur Mahan.

Mr. Mahan retired from a career in public school teaching in 1993 while a history instructor at Sacramento City College. He graduated from Neenah, Wisconsin high school, earned his college degree and teaching credential at California State University in San Jose and his Master's degree in history at Stanford University. He taught history for two years at Whittier High School, ten years at Sacramento High School, four years at John F. Kennedy High School in Sacramento and twenty-two years at Sacramento City College.

After retiring at age 63, Mr. Mahan returned to Kennedy to coach the school's cross-country teams for five years. He actively promoted interest in the history of Sacramento. His research has been published by California History, the journal of the California Historical Society, by the Sacramento Historical Society; by Sacramento City College and by The Sacramento Bee. He was appointed by the Sacramento City Council to the Sacramento Historical Landmarks Commission and later served on the Board of Directors of the Sacramento County Historical Society. He wrote and produced videos on public art and local history that frequently appear on local educational television stations. He started popular guided tours of the Old City Cemetery and was a leader in preserving the depression-era fresco by Ralph Stackpole in the Sacramento City College Performing Arts Building lobby.

He was a steadfast participant in local political activities. Mr. Mahan was President of the Sacramento Young Democrats and was elected to the Sacramento County Democratic Central Committee. He served on the 1983- 84 Sacramento County Grand Jury. In 2012, he personally registered over 800 new voters at Sacramento City College. He participated actively in professional teachers organizations as Vice-President and Treasurer of the Los Rios Community College Federation of Teachers, Campus Chair of the local at Sacramento City College and member of the Academic Senate at City College.

An enthusiastic runner, he belonged to the Buffalo Chips Running Club and competed frequently in road races, including eleven marathons, the last at age 75. While cross-country coach at Sacramento and Kennedy high schools, he coached Kennedy to the Sac Joaquin Section Championship. Included among the runners he coached was State Champion and Golden West Champion Clifton West.

After his retirement from teaching, he volunteered with the Happy Tails Animal Adoption Center and the Sacramento Room of the Sacramento City Library. He was Vice President of the City College Faculty Emeriti, an inept but enthusiastic golfer, a River Cats season ticket-holder, a lover of good mystery novels, and a lifelong Chicago Cubs fan - maybe this year!

Mr. Mahan has asked that no formal funeral services be held. Memorial contributions in his name may be made to the Sacramento Room of the Sacramento Public Library, 828 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Published in *The Sacramento Bee* on Aug. 28, 2016