



In Memory of
~ Mark Warren Tolladay ~
January 7, 1959 – August 8, 2007



Mark Warren Tolladay, Director of Fitness and Recreation for San Joaquin Gardens and long time member of the Fresno arts community, died in Fresno on Wednesday, August 8, 2007, at the age of 48. Mark was born in Merced, California, on January 7, 1959, to James and Clarice Tolladay. He was the only boy in the family and had three sisters. He graduated from Merced High School and played the trumpet for the Marching 100 band. He was a member of the Methodist Youth Fellowship in the United Methodist Church in Merced, where he was the catalyst for many joyful activities including dramas and singing groups. He graduated from **California State University, Fresno** with a degree in Recreational Therapy in 1982. Mark worked for over 25 years in the field of recreation for older adults. His career included employment as Recreation Director for Madera Convalescent Hospital, Recreation Consultant for Beverly Enterprises, and 21 years as the Director of Fitness and Recreation for San Joaquin Gardens in Fresno. Mark poured his enormous creative energy into his work, creating an environment of joy, fun and caring throughout the San Joaquin Gardens community. He received numerous national awards for outstanding accomplishments in his career and was published in the *Journal on Active Aging* for his pioneering work in the field of older-adult theater.

Mark was a vital participant in Fresno's arts community. He performed many character roles for the Fresno Ballet company and danced the role of Drosselmeyer for numerous productions of *The Nutcracker*. He has performed with the Good Company Players for over 20 years, acting and singing in productions such as: *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Evita*, *Carousel*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *1776*, *Secret Garden*, and many more. In addition to performing, Mark was always ready to help out backstage with props, stage managing and costumes. He was an inspiration and mentor for many young actors and dancers with whom he performed, and was an encouragement to all behind the scenes. Mark lived and loved life and exuded gratitude, joy, compassion and purpose.

He is survived by his partner, Alfonso Rivas of Fresno; his parents, James and Clarice Tolladay of Merced, his sisters Karen Heinrichs of Le Grand, Jamie Buettner of Kingsburg, and Lisa Coyle of Shafter; and his nieces and nephews, Frank, Becky, Jill, Mark, Ben, Katie, Caleb, Marissa, D.J., Mills, and Gabe.

The Bulldog Pride Fund is an endowment that provides an annuity to support student scholarships at Fresno State. The BPF graciously welcomes tribute and memorial gifts, as well as donations in the form of securities, real property, corporate matching gifts and bequests. Donations are 100% tax-deductible.

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