

Obituary for William Shea, Educator – November 3, 2011

Longtime resident and educator William Maurice Shea passed away at home in Los Angeles on November 3, 2011. Cause of death was complications due to Parkinson's disease. He was 77 years old.

Born in Pittsburgh, PA, September 22, 1934, to Catherine and Lawrence Shea, Bill moved to Los Angeles in 1958 after performing with the Ice Capades for several years. In 1961 he was married to Sheila Lynn Donaldson of Santa Monica, CA. He completed his undergraduate studies at California State University, Los Angeles, and went on to achieve masters and doctoral degrees in education at the University of Southern California.

His career in education spanned many years teaching elementary grades, serving as elementary school principal and middle school vice principal, acting as assistant superintendent of Culver City Schools, and culminated with his serving as principal for 17 years at Olympic High School in Santa Monica, CA, before retiring in 1992. Bill was a natural teacher at heart and fulfilled a profound desire to touch the lives of children and teenagers, particularly students who sought and thrived in alternative educational environments. In his retirement he continued to act as a mentor to many friends and associates.

A lifelong natural athlete, Bill played hockey, handball, and tennis and was a beautiful skier. He was an avid duck hunter and fly fisherman, and after a decades-long hiatus he resumed ice skating and became active in the local figure skating community. His determination kept him competing as an amateur downhill skier for fifteen years beyond the onset of his Parkinson's.

Bill Shea is survived by two daughters, Mary Shea (Evanston, IL) and Victoria Shea (Encinitas, CA), his former wife Sheila Donaldson Shea (Rancho Santa Fe, CA), and a brother, Timothy Reilly (Zionsville, PA).

Memorial service - Fri., November 11, 11am at Saint Martin of Tours Catholic Church, 11967 Sunset Blvd, Los Angeles. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St Martin of Tours Catholic Church, and the National Parkinson Foundation, 800.327.4545 or online <http://www.parkinson.org> or to the organization of your choice.