

BRIAN CHARLES COLL, SR.



Brian Charles Coll, Sr. was a family man, wine connoisseur and cat lover. Known by his friends as a tough Scrabble competitor, Brian was a loyal husband, father, friend and neighbor. We lost him on Friday, September 20, 2024, from a sudden illness.

Brian was born on July 13, 1940, in Pittsburgh, PA to Robert and Mary Coll. The youngest of five siblings, Brian grew up with sisters Maureen and Eileen and brothers Robert, Jr. and Dennis. He graduated from St. Andrew's High School in 1958, where he was a member of the football team.

In 1965, Brian moved his young family across the country to settle in Marin County. It was there that Brian embarked on a long career in the insurance industry, calling Marin County his home until 1990 before relocating to Sonoma, where he would live for the remainder of his life.

Brian raised his three children, Thomas, Brian, Jr. and Kerri as a single parent starting in 1972, acting as the glue that held the clan together. As a father, Brian's loyalty stood out to those around him. Thomas recalls that his father was known for always doing what needed to be done no matter the difficulty or the costs. Brian sadly lost Brian, Jr. in 2011 and Kerri in 2022.

Brian married his wife, Frances Dunbar, in 2009. They shared their home with numerous well-loved, well-fed feline companions, including the most recent family members Stormy and Bandit.

Throughout his life, Brian enjoyed the outdoors. He loved going for walks in the Sonoma countryside, sometimes with Stormy or Bandit at his side. He frequented Lake Tahoe, where he would spend time with Fran. He loved visiting the Sonoma wineries and appreciated a good glass of viognier. He was intelligent, thoughtful and remarkably witty. He had a strong work ethic, a photographic memory, a special way with words and an unparalleled knack for storytelling.

Brian is survived by his wife, Fran; his son, Thomas (Rebecca) Coll of San Diego; his daughter-in-law, Rachel Tublitz of Durham; and his grandchildren, Miles, Elizabeth and Claire Coll and Hazel and Eli Tublitz. He will be greatly missed. A celebration of his life will be scheduled.

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