



Kirby Gordon

October 6, 2022

Kirby Gordon recently passed with his loving family around him.

He graduated from Saint Anthony High School in Long Beach, CA with a 4.0 GPA, Class of 1967. He was class President, President of the Letterman's Society, President of the National Honor Society, two time All Catholic League and All City in basketball. After Saint Anthony High School he attended Long Beach City College where he was All Metropolitan Conference, he was awarded Fraternity Council for highest GPA, and President of Student Forums. He was co-captain of the basketball team with good friend Jon Borchert. He was Bank of America Regional Man of the Year, state finalist.

After attending Long Beach City College he went to UC Riverside where he made First Team All American and was then named Co-Captain of the team. He was granted the Chancellor's Award of Excellence. He was designated outstanding graduate in 1971 for UC Riverside. He was a Ronald Loveridge Scholar recipient for Washington D.C. Kirby was admitted to UC Davis law school and graduated in 1973. Mr. Gordon had a distinguished career in Law and as a Real Estate Broker and Developer in Pismo Beach since 1974. Kirby Served with the Long Beach Lifeguard for 50 years. He was inducted into the Long Beach Lifeguard Hall of Fame. His legacy will be remembered for his long service with the Kirby Taplin Relay that continues today.

As a lifetime ocean and distance swimmer, one of his best accomplishments

was swimming Alcatraz, with no wetsuit, for his 60th birthday. He leaves behind his spouse and business partner Margaret O'Hara Gordon. Three children; Stephanie Gordon, Devin Gordon & Haley Gordon Grant, one step daughter, Deena Erpenbach, his sister, Laurie Wallach-Projansky and two nephews Dylan and Andrew Projansky.

As a Real Estate Attorney and Broker, Kirby started his business, Gordon Properties, in 1974 in Pismo Beach. Kirby was more widely known for making a difference in many people's lives as he always tried to help people with much love and compassion.

Kirby went on after college and during his career to serve at the Mission and San Luis Obispo High School as an Assistant Basketball Coach.

Kirby leaves behind many dear and close friends and colleagues.

A Visitation will be held on Sunday, Oct. 16, 2022 from 12pm-2-pm, followed by a Vigil from 2pm-3pm at Reis Family Mortuary and a Funeral Mass will be held on Monday, Oct. 17, 2022 at 10:00 am at Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa.

Previous Events

Viewing

OCT **16**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (PT)

Reis Family Mortuary and Crematory
991 Nipomo Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
(805) 544-7400
k.reis1958@gmail.com
<https://www.reisfamilymortuary.net/>

Vigil/Rosary

OCT **16**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (PT)

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991 Nipomo Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
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Funeral Mass

OCT **17**. 10:00 AM (PT)

Mission San Luis Obispo De Tolosa
751 Palm St
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
office@oldmissionslo.org
<http://missionsanluisobispo.org/>

Tribute Wall

CB

“ Kirby was one of my best friends at LBCC. I was President of the student forum one year, and he was President of the student forum the next year. Kirby received the silver key for service from the associate men's students along with myself, and Carl Weathers, now known as Apollo Creed from the Rocky series. He was a much stronger swimmer than I but we often swam 3 miles a day, three days a week in the Alamitos bay. We first became friends at Saint Anthony's along with his girlfriend, Judy and my girlfriend, Patsy. We were in the drama club. We often went to Bob's big boy for a hamburger and cherry Coke. I lost touch with him until about 10 years ago and several years after that, he let me know he was teaching at Mission and my nephew was attending the school. You will never meet a finer gentleman and I will always appreciate the time he spent with my parents and his friendship is one of my finest memories from my time in high school and college. I was in a bad accident five years ago and we promised to get together but that never happened due to my physical problems; but, I am so happy we got back in touch during these past years. You will always be my hero RIP You were truly one in a lifetime.

Charles Beckman - November 16, 2022 at 11:16 PM

MS

I still miss seeing Kirby at New York City dog show. I had Gordon's as a child and now. Gordon's are fabulous 😊

Marilynn Summers - August 13, 2023 at 12:23 PM

MO

Kirby never attended the NYC dog show. Your post is inappropriate.

Margaret OHara - November 12, 2024 at 07:23 PM

CA

“ My husband Richard and I have only had the honor of knowing Kirby for the last three or four years. Everything people have written here is so spot on. Kirby made you feel he had known you all his life. His intelligence was amazing, yet he never made you feel inferior. He was humble kind generous and loving. He would do anything to help you. He has made our lives, the world a better place for having him in them. Margaret we are so sorry for your and your family's loss. We are jealous of the Angels around the throne tonight!

Love The Andrews, Cindy & Richard

Cindy & Richard Andrews - November 10, 2022 at 12:28 AM

LL

“ Dear Margaret, I am so very sorry for your profound loss. Kirby was so kind and friendly during the many years that I knew him. My condolences to you and the rest of your family. Lisa Lazzara

Lisa Boutelle Lazzara - November 07, 2022 at 03:48 PM

CB

I remember Kirby as if it was yesterday. Fun to be around, caring, and gentle. I will always remember visiting at his home in Shell Beach when we had an earthquake. He quickly took charge sent me under the dining table....later he did a walk about outside to check for damages. He was like a brother. I loved his friendship and enjoyed meeting so many of his friends. My condolences to his family. Hey Kirby, until our next hug...💕

Cheryl Korelich Bunton - January 14, 2023 at 05:45 PM

RE

“Kirby was always an advocate for kids and the people that were close to him. I feel fortunate to have been part of his world. Over the years, we collaborated on many business ventures and personal discovery sessions; he was always a positive contributor and cheerleader. I have the highest respect for the life he lived and the way he showed respect to others, even in the most difficult of situations. He is a permanent fixture in my heart. His spirit will live on in the people he touched. May Kirby be in God’s book of life. Rob Elder

Rob Elder - November 03, 2022 at 03:08 PM

TO

“Kirby has been my hero for over 30 years. I worked for him when I first came to the area in 1990. Over the years, whenever I stopped by, he always had a big smile and asked me how things were. Sometimes I even went to Lunch at Meis. He said it was an open invitation, anytime I could make it. And he meant it.

In 2000 the darkest part of my life, he was there for our family, always looking out and being Kirby. He stood with me and defended my reputation. He protected our family from harm and fraud. I will always be grateful to him.

He led by example, and I can only hope to emulate that in my life. To be there – not because you are asked but because you are needed and can help.

Rest in Peace Jolly Green – until we meet again my friend.

Tammie Olson

Tammie Olson - October 18, 2022 at 06:04 PM

PK

“ I met Kirby in the 80's. Because of Kirby's knowledge and high business ethics, we did over 30 years of transactions .

Through his work, I learned CONTINUOUSLY...

Diversity

Inclusionary

Equity

Colorless

Justice is blind

My BEST SCHOOL!

I am so grateful!

Never ask for anything for himself except, .The last few months, he was reminding me to pray for him which he knows he was always on my prayers.

God be with you Kirby!

Peace,

Priscilla Ko

Priscilla Ko - October 17, 2022 at 12:34 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Kirby Gordon.



October 15, 2022 at 12:45 PM

DB

“ *Debbie & Gary Barlow purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Kirby Gordon.*



Debbie & Gary Barlow - October 14, 2022 at 09:33 PM

DB

“ *Kirby was always there to offer advice, answer all questions, or give one of his big bear hugs when it was most needed. I had the privilege of working with him for over 30 years and I am so grateful for that! He was fiercely intelligent, quick-witted, kind and compassionate. He worked tirelessly for his clients and was never too busy to offer the help they needed. He loved coaching so much and his "Coach's Cookies" were famous!! Friday lunches at Mei's ended with a round of fortune cookies which always brought forth the same dad joke every time and he cracked himself up - every time. When Kirby laughed, he laughed with his whole being! It was a joy to behold. There will be no more ringing phones, endless emails, paperwork, court appearances, or deadlines! Kirby, I imagine you resting by a heavenly beach with an icy Arnold Palmer in hand. Rest well my friend until we meet again.*

Debbie Barlow

Debbie Barlow - October 14, 2022 at 09:29 PM

LK

“ Another star that will be shining brightly as the day transitions to night. Kirby will be greatly missed and irreplaceable. Kirby weaved his energy through many aspects of our lives in the Kirschner family. As a friend, associate, confident and basketball coach to my sons at SLO high school. He was always a participating part of our decades. His energy was infectious. His commitment to living a full life and enrolling those around him was a real joy to experience. My heart reaches out to his dedicated and loving wife Margaret the the family. Keep your inner soul strong and embrace the experiences of his love.



LINDA AND CHUCK Kirschner - October 14, 2022 at 04:17 PM

TF

“ The Borchert and Terry Family purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Kirby Gordon.



The Borchert and Terry Family - October 14, 2022 at 02:33 PM

MS

“ Thank you Kirby & Margaret for years of support, I got to know Kirby a little better over the last couple of years by working with Christopher & Kelly Hay who you referred to me. Through Chris I heard some great stories & came to appreciate the difference Kirby made in so many lives, mine included. I can also confirm that he might have made the best Chocolate Chip Cookies in the universe !
He always told Me I better take good care of his referrals !
Thanks Kirby - you have my word.
Mark Sullivan

Mark Sullivan - October 13, 2022 at 09:48 PM

CP

“ I had the privilege of having Kirby and Margaret as friends for more than two decades. But today I write about him. Kirby was elegantly humble, smoothly gracious and his heart was as big as he was physically large. His real estate knowledge was encyclopedic and he was never too busy or reluctant to share his expertise with a neophyte like me. His laugh was infectious. His broad smile was like a brilliant sunrise following a rainy night. IMHO, Mr. Gordon was an exceptional person. I know Kirby was a Californian from start to finish, but he could have been an honorary “southern gentleman”. There are many different explanations of what a southern gentleman is. The one most applicable to Mr. Gordon is “someone who puts the interests of others first.” May God bless his soul.
Charles Piccuta

Charles Piccuta - October 13, 2022 at 07:19 PM

FW

“ Kirby was such a good friend to our family. Our children became friends while going to school at Mission in San Luis Obispo from 1995-2007. Kirby and my late husband, Chris, coached the kids basketball teams. Both dads were great athletes in their own right, both played college basketball, both loved their families, so they hit it off and became good friends. One fun memory was when we all went to Disneyland together. Kirby had a minor knee surgery so he had to use a wheelchair to get around. He was having a good time regardless of being in the wheelchair because we got to go to the front of every line! But in 2001, my husband Chris died suddenly from a car accident. Myself and my five children were heartbroken and very depressed and Kirby came to our rescue. He mentored and coached my two youngest boys who were 6 and 9 at that time. He also helped one of my older boys to start coaching the kids too, which helped him too. As my son said, "he came to the rescue for our family when dad passed and helped us through heartache" and another son said, "he was like a dad for me, he did a lot for me". Kirby convinced me to sign my younger boys up for football. I was reluctant because I didn't think the boys were big enough but one son ended up getting a scholarship to play football for Weber State! Kirby was so caring, selfless and giving of his time to those in need. He truly is an angel.

God bless those whose hearts are breaking now and give them peace with the knowledge he is in your care. Kirby will always be in our hearts as our angel who saved us. With much love. The Wheeler Family: Frances, Justin, Nicholas, Joanna, Daniel and Jackson

Frances wheeler - October 13, 2022 at 03:26 PM

TF

“ *The Wheeler Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Kirby Gordon.*



The Wheeler Family - October 13, 2022 at 01:51 PM

CS

“ *Kirby was the first basketball coach I had in the 5th grade. He taught me how to love the sport and how to be a caring competitor. Kirby touched the hearts of so many through his work with youth sports. I will never forget the delicious cookies we would bring to practice after a good win, or the hugs and smile he would give me when he saw me as I grew into a young woman and began coaching youth sports myself. Kirby's smile will stay with me forever. So much love and prayers for his family!*

Connor Storlie - October 11, 2022 at 03:39 PM

CB

Kirby was like a big brother to me my whole life. We grew up together on the same street in Long Beach directly across the street from each other. I bought the house he grew up in thirty years ago. I loved Kirby and his parents with all my heart. He will be FOREVER missed. Prayers to his family and friends, and especially to his lovely wife Margaret.

Cyndy Burley - October 12, 2022 at 02:53 PM

JL

“Goodbyes are not forever, are not the end; it simply means ‘ We miss you,’ until we meet again my Friend” Jim & Jeri LaMarca



Jim & Jrei LaMarca - October 11, 2022 at 11:22 AM

JH

“ A friend since 5th grade...many many memories...lots of “kissing” games...with my “riddle” book...explanation at a later time...I will miss Kirby very much...but I rejoice that I will be seeing him again!

Jeannie Hood - October 10, 2022 at 07:24 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kirby Gordon.



October 10, 2022 at 07:17 PM

SG

“ To the Gordon Family and dear friends! I am so deeply saddened to hear the news of Kirby’s passing, I’m truly sorry for your loss! I first began working as a Legal assistant for Kirby in his small office in shell beach when I was just 24 years old with a small three month old baby In 1988. Kirby was always so amazing, he and I had a special bond, he gave me a renewed sense of faith by hiring me as a new mother and he really taught me so much about the law and real estate! Kirby always was kind, caring, professional who posed a great love for our Catholic faith, he took everyone under his wing. I remember moving from one office to the next and then he moved to the hill top, he almost couldn’t get any closer to heaven than he is right now. Kirby became a true friend and confidant and he loved my family as we all loves him, he watched my kids grow up to have their own children and Kirby always spoke so highly of his children and how much his love for Margaret really changed his life. He was a great man who will forever hold a special place in my heart. I love you Kirby and I pray that heaven really knows what a true Angel you are! Rest In Peace my dear friend! May your family and friends find comfort knowing how much they meant to you as you did to them 🙏❤️

Susan Garcia - October 10, 2022 at 06:27 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kirby Gordon.



October 10, 2022 at 06:13 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Kirby Gordon.*



October 10, 2022 at 06:01 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kirby Gordon.*



October 10, 2022 at 04:55 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Kirby Gordon.*



October 10, 2022 at 04:12 PM



“ *Kirby Gordon, realtor and lawyer, became our very close friend while we bought and sold homes in the coast. He was kind, caring, honest person who we learned to love and treasure. He gave us free legal advice when we needed it. We will miss him so much!! 🙏*



Maria Theresa and Steven Rosen - October 10, 2022 at 04:01 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kirby Gordon.*



October 10, 2022 at 03:41 PM



“ *My husband was desperately looking for a place to rent while our house was in escrow last spring. We were moving from Northern California to SLO. Kirby was the only realtor who actually cared to help us. The real estate market was HOT and rentals were hard to find. Unless one was ready to buy or sell, the realtors we encountered only redirected us to rental websites with no follow-up. But this was not so with Kirby. It was one call and Kirby took us into his care. He found us a rental right away. He and Margaret became our fast friends and it's all because of a sincere care for humanity. We now call that, The Kirby Experience. We have no doubt that Kirby will continue to guide us when we buy. One major component that needs to be clear is; Kirby's kindness is supported and enhanced by his beautiful wife Margaret. Margaret came with a friend to "kidnap" me for some fun while I was enduring the stressors of moving. I was sad and knew no one. This was a kind and thoughtful gesture that will never be forgotten. That is The Margaret Experience! Thank you to the duet who have touched and served so many people. We love you and send grace. Tricia and David Acosta*

Tricia Cloughesy - October 10, 2022 at 11:27 AM



“ *Thank you Margaret and Kirby for welcoming Robert and I to our new chapter of life in 2020.*

Lauri Abrahamson - October 09, 2022 at 01:48 PM

DN

“ *Jill, I am sorry for your loss. Although I only spoke with Kirby about real estate, he was a very nice person and I enjoyed knowing him.*
David Norwood

David Norwood - October 08, 2022 at 11:08 PM