

Memorial for Andrew Meredith Doty

Andy Doty: October 12, 1925-August 12, 2023



New York's Native Son and Stanford's beloved Director of Community Relations Emeritus died at the age of 97 in Palo Alto, California.

Andy was born in Stillwater, NY, raised in Hudson Falls, the youngest of seven children. Coming of age during the Great Depression, he worked as a golf-caddy, a bowling alley pinsetter and on constructions crews. He was genuinely astonished by the arc of his life-- from his small town to the Stanford Farm.

He excelled in high school academic and athletic pursuits, was Class President, Captain of his football team, and a wrestling and track standout. He savored and could recall with precision a winning touchdown he scored in the Allstate Championships.

In 1944, he enlisted in the Air Force to serve in World War II. He trained and was deployed as a tail gunner on the B-29 Superfortress, completing 21 missions over Japan and receiving a Purple Heart after parachuting out of an abandoned plane and surviving 13 hours adrift in a solo raft.

When he retired, he wrote a book about his boyhood and war experiences, *Backwards Into Battle: A Tail Gunner's Tale*, and gave warmly-received readings for many years.

He attended St. Lawrence University on the G.I Bill and married his high school sweetheart, Eleanor Jane Baker, in 1950; they held their reception at Lake George and set off on their honeymoon with \$85.

matches, car accidents and fires. He moved on to Johns Hopkins University covering science and technology research. His first daughter, Susan, was born in Baltimore.

He was hired by the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where his second and third daughters, Ann and Nancy, were born. In 1963 he came to Stanford working for 30 years in university and community affairs.

He volunteered on numerous community boards, including the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce where he helped to create the Tall Tree Award and was later a recipient of it. He was a founding member of the Palo Alto Endowment Fund and of Leadership Palo Alto and a familiar face at weekly Palo Alto City Council meetings.

In retirement he served on the Board of Contributors to the Palo Alto Weekly, worked with the Stanford Historical Society and Trees for El Camino. He was a member of the Fellowship Forum, contributing as President and in other capacities.

He was widely respected for negotiating in good faith the interests of a dynamic university with the concerns of an engaged community and earned a reputation through it all for fairness, affability and a really good, wry sense of humor.

But above all else, he cherished, and was cherished by, his family and community. His consistently good nature, generosity and concern for others defined him. We will so miss his happy company, his peppering us with questions about our lives, our families, our aspirations. He savored every moment of his long life and taught us in so many respects how to live ours.

Andy was preceded in death by his wife Eleanor, his parents and siblings. He is survived by

an adoring family--daughters Susan Shepard (Michael), Ann Protter (Andy), Nancy Doty (Bill Howe); granddaughter Meredith Shepard (John) and great-grandson Adrian; grandsons Finnegan Shepard (Kalila Bohsali), David and Michael Protter, and grand-daughters Erica and Amy Howe. Along the way, he gathered Rob Wijngaart into the fold.