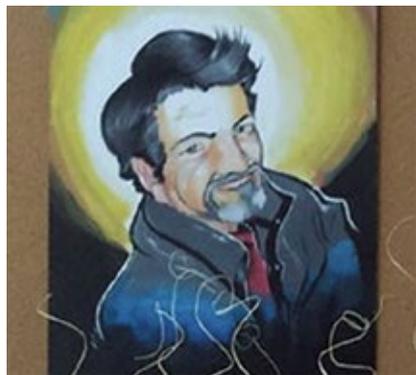


OBITUARIES

VITTORIO FATEMI Studied law enforcement



COURTESY JOSEPH PENA

Portrait of Vittorio Fatemi.

Two-year Marlon Manor resident Vittorio Fatemi, a congenial man and armchair expert on city services, was seemingly in good health one day, but deceased the next.

A friend found him unconscious in his room Feb. 17. An ambulance took him to St. Francis Memorial Hospital where he died that day without regaining consciousness. He was 55.

"It came as a surprise to us all," said his good friend, Joseph Pena, a fellow resident. Mr. Fatemi had a disability from an arm injury long ago but always appeared healthy. "Then, he was just gone. The hospital said he didn't suffer."

Pena had known him since 2005 and said he had an impressive knowledge of city services. "He really knew the ABCs of it all."

Originally from Berkeley, Mr. Fatemi had many interests. He once took flying lessons and liked watching aviation films with Pena. He had visited France, Mexico and New Orleans in his many trav-

els as a youth and often talked of Mardi Gras. He loved cheese and fine cuisine and "could talk about food for days." He collected mementos from all over San Francisco and knew a lot of people.

Mr. Fatemi's mother, Yvonne Kins of Eugene, Oregon, told The Extra by phone that her son had graduated from Berkeley High School and attended Merritt Community College to study law enforcement. "He went on many patrols with the police but didn't finish the course." Still, he became a security officer and worked for such companies as Standard Oil and Payless stores.

His family nickname was Toto "because he couldn't pronounce his name" as a little boy, she said. Later, his friends called him Vito.

"He was wonderfully intelligent and personable," his mother said. "People liked him and he was very good looking as a young man."

He came to San Francisco's Tenderloin in the early 1990s and had been homeless for a while, she said.

Mr. Fatemi, whose father was Iranian and had served in the U.S. Army, visited her regularly. But she hadn't seen him in 2 1/2 years.

"It's an awful feeling — a person disappearing into a void," she said of her son. "I'm trying to get a handle on the finality of it."

Pena had arranged a memorial that was held March 11. Mr. Fatemi's mother had sent a letter that was read and that she repeated to The Extra.

"He always dressed nicely, too," Pena said. "Earth tones, nothing bright. His clothes were taken to Rescue Mission before I knew it. I'm trying to get a few back to remember him by. We were pretty close." ■

— Tom Carter



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