



Thomas Joseph McGarrity

February 4, 1941 - April 13, 2009

Thomas Joseph McGarrity, 68, of West Hartford, partner of Paul V. Snipes, died peacefully at St. Francis Hospital, April 13, 2009. Born in Torrington, CT February 4, 1941, he was the son of the late William and Dorothy Bader McGarrity.

Tom s began his professional career at the age of 16 at the Warner Theater in Torrington. He rose through the ranks of the Torin Corporation becoming an executive in human resources. He built on this experience as a specialist in the placement of human resources professionals, as a partner in Flynn Associates and The Rivers Group. Tom may be best known for his work as manager of Japanalia Eiko since 1986. He was a key member of the Japanalia team, working with designers Eiko and Dan Blow. Drawing from his extensive art background, he used his talent to style Japanalia clients to enhance each personality.

Of his many activities, Tom was particularly proud of his work with one of the first residences for people with HIV. He used his business and art backgrounds for Tabor House to make charitable fundraising a fine dining and creative experience. Tom was also head of the West Hartford Merchants Association.

Tom was known for his elegant and sophisticated sense of style and his

lifelong interest in the arts. Tom and Paul traveled extensively to London, Dublin, Edinburgh, Paris, Istanbul as well as Arizona and Southern California. Tom loved to entertain. He and Paul had small formal dinner parties and cherished their Sunday nights with Mary Flynn. He also loved his sharpei dogs, Boscoe and Miss Helen. Tom was a thoughtful, generous and loyal friend; his kindness was complemented by a puckish sense of humor.

A memorial service will be held at 12 p.m., Saturday, April 18th at Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford. Calling hours will precede the service beginning at 10.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Francis Hospital Cancer Center, c/o St. Francis Foundation, 95 Woodland Street Hartford, Connecticut 06105-1299. The family would like to thank the staff at St. Francis Hospital and the doctors and nurses who provided Tom with excellent and compassionate care.

Tribute Wall



“ Uncle Tom will be missed by all!! I personally don't know the modern day Tom but when I was a kid he was a very kind and caring person!! My father deceased 1991 his brother loved him very much and always spoke of how NICE Uncle Tom was!! May he rest in peace and enjoy the pride of what he left behind!!##imported-begin##Ryan McGarrity##imported-end##

May 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ When I first "discovered" Japanalia Tom hadn't arrived on the scene. After that, I couldn't stay away, even after I moved to RI, because Tom was so masterful in helping me see colors and designs that worked for me. He truly made the world more beautiful in so many ways for so many people. Since my Japnalia wardrobe is forever, that's how long I'll remember Tom and I'll smile when I do. My heart goes out to you,Paul, and all the dear, close friends who will miss Tom forever.##imported-begin##Jan French Garbutt##imported-end##

April 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ As Thoreau said: "Life is but an azure moment." Tom will always be remembered for that subtle smile, a sense of knowing and wisdom that only he possessed. A class act. I appreciate the time he spent on the planet and wish love to Paul and ALL Tom's many friends, of all species.##imported-begin##Anne Crawford##imported-end##

April 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Shopping at Japanalia will never be the same - nor as much fun - without Tom. Whatever sense of style I now have, came from Tom's guidance and creativity. I never returned to Connecticut without a stop at Japanalia in West Hartfor to get my Tom-fix - and to catch up on the doings of Miss Helen. Tom was special. Jill Diskan###imported-begin##Jill Diskan###imported-end##

April 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Has it really been 23 years? I will never visit nor think about Japanalia without images of Tom flooding my memory. For more than two decades Tom was the focal point of many a shopping spree with an entourage of friends first at the old store on South Whitney and later for many years he hosted Japanalia Eiko for all of us aficionados. Tom was the perfect compliment to Eiko and Dan's delectable designs and lush fabrics; it was Tom who hooked me on the thrill of dressing like a fashionista. All of those red bags!! Tom would dress and advise us, compliment and encourage us, all in his quiet, understated way. To me Tom is "Japanalia";.###imported-begin##Marti Sabin###imported-end##

April 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM