IN MEMORIAM: 

Gary R. Aften
1931–2008

Gary was honored by the California Hawking Club for his outstanding contributions to falconry.

Avid falconer, high school Biology teacher, veterinarian, and wildlife conservationist are all ways to describe Gary Raymond Aften. Gary’s long courageous battle with cancer ended on December 15, 2008, at the age of 57. It was Gary’s way to help others understand our environment and all its living things. As a falconer, his work helped many of his peers look up, hear the scream of a red tail, or call of a falcon, we have to look up and smile, because we know Gary’s presence is on the wing and never very far away. We are all better people for having known him, and anytime we hear the scream of a red tail, or call of a falcon, we have to look up and smile, because we know Gary’s presence is on the wing and never very far away.

Gary monitored the population of the peregrine falcons closely, enthusiastically following the Richardson vulture and among others. He was an active member of the North American Hawking Association and the California Hawking Club. He was an integral part of the peregrine falcon population monitoring efforts and was instrumental in the recovery of the species.

Gary’s long courageous battle with cancer ended on December 15, 2008, at the age of 57. As many falconers know, the falconer’s challenge is to go out and see why they are so hard-flying game. In five minutes, Gary would usually deadly and has won hands and given falcons. He was a member of the North American Hawking Association and the California Hawking Club. The December 9, 2008, Gary was honored in the first ceremony of the “Gary Alten Award” for his outstanding contributions to falconry by the California Hawking Clubs.

Gary spent many years becoming educated as a falconer, via observation, breeding programs, and the promotion of their welfare. As well as being a wonderful friend, family member, and mentor, Gary was also a dedicated educator. He was an active member of the North American Hawking Association and the California Hawking Club. He was an integral part of the peregrine falcon population monitoring efforts and was instrumental in the recovery of the species.

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