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Virginia Cummins, Dan Lass, Val and Mary Fairman, Walter Imfeld, Jim Garry, Mrs. Cheryl Ng, Mr. and Mrs. Evertt Gray, California Hawking Club

REMEMBERING ED

Written in 1992 by John E. Pappas

I was a young college student 21 years ago when I met Ed Cummins at Turner Sports and Marine in San Lorenzo, California. I was with my future father-in-law on a boat buying excursion when I became captivated by a large big game trophy collection on display, including the red-tailed hawk above Ed's desk. Little did I know at the time that Ed would become my dear friend and falconry guiding light.

I had birds of prey before I met Ed Cummins but my road was rocky, full of hard knocks, and book learning – not trial and error. Ed Cummins was to become my master falconer, my sponsor, my mentor, and – most of all – my beloved friend. He was the first practicing falconer I ever met. He was the first to guide and assist me. For this I will forever be in Ed's debt.

His gifts to me were many, including a knowledge and understanding of nature and one's place in the scope of things. Ed taught me to respect animals and the environment, and to give back as much as I took.

Ed was a true environmentalist. He had a greater understanding of life than most due to his love and devotion to many winged hunting partners over his 40 plus years as a master falconer. Caring for and hunting with birds of prey gave Ed a unique look at nature – close up and personal. He was instrumental in all the current improvements we now enjoy in falconry regulations. Ed accomplished all this, and more, during his tenure on the CHC board and as vice-president for over six years.

Ed will be sorely missed by his peers and CHC members. His contributions will be felt for years to come, his efforts long-lived, and will benefit fellow falconers. I will always have fond memories of Ed Cummins. He has gone to a better place but will never leave my heart. *To my sponsor and friend: May your heart soar with the eagles!*



Earl Herald, Steve Herman and Ed Cummins

IN MEMORY OF ED

Written in 1992 by (the late) Ed Ng

Ed was a good friend. I started in the sport in 1960. I met Ed in 1961. . In that era, the so-called "top-guns" were names like Louis Davis, Steve Herman, Jim Adamson, Hans Peeters, Ted Solomon among others. Being a newcomer, I could not help but feel a very distant acceptance into the sport. Of all the established Bay Area falconers, Ed was the only one to step forward and offer his friendship. That friendship lasted for over thirty years. It is hard to realize that so much time has passed and harder to accept the fact that we will no longer hawk together.

A stimulating thought that I had in 1961 has never left me, even to this day. I have not met many individuals of falconry status and rank. I did not take too much time to realize for myself were Ed fitted into my three personal, distinct classifications of falconers: 1) There are those who will attest to the fact that they love falconry and end up doing something (usually to themselves) TO falconry, intentionally or otherwise; 2) There are those who will attest to the fact that they love falconry and end up doing something (usually taking game) WITH falconry; 3) There are those who will attest to the fact that they love falconry and end up doing something (usually individuals like Ed) FOR falconry.

In this field sport as in life itself, just as there are three distinct differences in the so-called "Love of Falconry", there is a difference between an acquaintance and a friend. There is an old expression that is appropriate: "All good things must come to an end." Well, it was good knowing you, Clifford Edward Cummins. Too bad this good thing came to an end so soon... you have left behind some casual acquaintances, and many, many good friends. I will miss you.

"He had a greater understanding of life than most due to his love and devotion to many winged hunting partners over his 40 plus years as a master falconer." -John E. Pappas



A CALIFORNIA FALCONER

By Sterling Bunnell (modified from the April, 1992 Hawk Chalk)

Ed Cummins died of a heart attack February 13, 1992. For the previous two years he had been vice-president of the California Hawking Club, and the previous four was a CHC director. He had long been an influential figure in California falconry. Many relied on Ed for instruction, encouragement and advice. In 1954, Ed and Steve Herman spent several months in Colorado flying eyas prairies successfully at pheasants and magpies. They learned much about flying from Pete Asborno, Hal Webster, Bill Russell, and other active regional falconers. When Ed returned to California, he taught others what he had learned and in so doing contributed to the development of California falconry. Ed was a great history enthusiast and helped keep the traditions of the art alive in subsequent generations of California falconers.

A successful businessman, Ed's insights into human and institutional nature were invaluable in guiding CHC in its dealings with state regulatory officials. Ed was a devoted family man and a practical falconer who flew his birds at a high level in the less than ideal conditions of the San Francisco Bay area.

Those who knew him will remember Ed's ability to combine deep kindness with shrewd observation. He spoke the truth, but known not to speak ill of anyone. We will miss him.



PHOTOS:

Top: John Pappas,
Ed Cummins, and Ed
Ng

Middle: Cummins
Family Photo, 1991

Bottom: Jim Rickard,
Steve Herman and Ed
Cummins

