

DINO JAMES DiGIACOMO

Dino James DiGiacomo, Hot Springs, South Dakota, was born in Dearborn, Michigan, January 20, 1947, the son of Italian immigrants. He passed away in his sleep, September 23, 2018 at the State Veterans Home.



Dino was a man of passion, living every day to the fullest and inspiring others. As a teen, to the consternation of his mother, he hitchhiked to the Black Hills, drawn by his love of Crazy Horse and western gunfighters. Although a teenage gangster of sorts, he graduated from Wayne State University as a high school history teacher and tried to keep other boys from gang life. He taught more from personal experience and knowledge than from textbooks. As an Army Private, Dino served as an Administrative Specialist in Germany.

Boxing was an early passion; he fought as an amateur (1960-65) and a professional (1965-67), unbeaten in 51 fights! He sparred with greats like Mohammed Ali, Roberto Duran and Joe Lewis, recalling late-night chats with all. After a hiking fall while in his twenties, doctors discovered an arteriovenous malformation (AVM) in Dino's brain. Trips to major hospitals proved surgery was not an option. Heartbroken, he left the ring—one blow could have burst the AVM. Knowing he could die at any moment, Dino lived as if he had no tomorrows, embracing the 60s hippy culture with abandon.

Dino jumped from one career to another—movie producer, western historian, writer and businessman. He gave talks on Crazy Horse and gunfighters, produced film documentaries and was working on a movie script shortly before he passed. He published articles and poetry, receiving Editor's Choice Award from International Library of Poetry, and participated in local writers' groups. He volunteered for causes he was passionate about: Democratic Party Builder, Area Coordinator for Suncatcher Therapeutic Riding Academy, Horizons Community Development Project,

Battle Mountain Humane Society and Cat's Meow Feline Rescue.

Dino was a protector of all creatures great and small. He walked the streets of Los Angeles with Kola the German Shepherd, proud that Kola never once wore collar or leash. His favorite wild animal was the tiger, a kindred wild and free spirit. Dino must have had at least nine 'tiger' lives to fit his adventures into seven decades. Surely he lives his ninth life now, in a place beyond our ken.

For better or worse, Dino seldom approached anything halfway. A loss by his beloved Chicago Bears could put him in a week-long funk; a win sent him over the moon. He deep-dived into friendships and often said heaven would be a place with all his loved ones in close proximity. His passion often led to deep rifts, but he found his way back to those he loved, friendship renewed. If Dino loved you, he loved you even when he was mad at you.

*The time spent laughing
is time well spent.*

—Dino DiGiacomo

In the 70s and 80s, Dino made many dear friends at Elysium Sun Club in Topanga, California, a clothing optional resort where he also worked as groundskeeper; many remain friends today. He married Renee Winett in 1980 and was married for ten years. Today Renee and husband Ron Mascitelli are dear friends and frequent visitors to Dino and Delores' Sheps Canyon home.

In the 90s Dino followed Elysium friend Steve Brent to the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota, settling at Evans Hotel. An AVM-induced stroke had damaged the right side of his body and Hot Springs, with its VA facility, was a refuge for a simpler life. In July 2003, Dino met De-



"Hey Delores, Yaabb!"

—Dino D.

lores Aul at a concert on the Evans porch. They fell in love and stayed together until he passed. They shared a passion for animals and provided refuge for cats and dogs—the furry family became an endless source of love and comfort.

Continued on the back...

Celebrating the Life of Dino James DiGiacomo

1/20/1947 to 9/23/2018



*Beyer • Writer • Filmmaker
Teacher • Friend to Man & Beast
Family Man • Loving Partner*



PROGRAM – October 18, 2018

- 5:30 Gather at the American Legion**
- 5:45 21-gun salute (outside in the Memorial Garden)**
- 5:50 Dinner – please fill your plates and find a place to sit.***
- 6:30 Service – Officiated by Pastor Aaron Hughes**
The music playing while you eat is a selection of Dino's favorites.

- Welcome – Pastor Aaron Hughes**
- Epitaph – written by Renee & Ron Mascielli, read by Dusty Pence**
- Free Falling – Jarrett Weimer & John Culbertson**
- The Best Man – Delores Aul**
- Poem, Stumbling – Mark Wedes**
- The Best Dad – Jamie Aul**
- Angel Flying Too Close to the Ground**
– Jarrett Weimer & John Culbertson
- Message – Pastor Aaron Hughes**
- Remembrances from guests**
- Closing Prayer – Pastor Aaron Hughes**
- Happy Trails – Jarrett Weimer & John Culbertson**

*** Like Dino, this gathering is informal. Refill your plate throughout the service (he loved food!) and browse at the memorial table, including Kim Moir's slide show about "Dino's Decade of Boxing in Hot Springs".**



An Epitaph for Dino

Of all of the things that

we will miss on Dino's passing,

perhaps the most irreplaceable are

his passion for life and his abil-

ity to share that passion through

friendship. Being a friend to Dino

is to be swept up in his energy,

compassion, opinions, and quirks.

His personality was so warm, so

all-encompassing, that once you

were exposed to it, becoming his

friend was a foregone conclusion.

You just couldn't help yourself.

Being Dino's friend was never

boring; you were regaled with sto-

ries of boxing lore, educated in the

true history of the old West, drawn

into caring about every living

thing, and surprised daily by his

ability to laugh or cry about almost

anything.

The extremes of his

personality defined him:

a tough ex-fighter who

would melt at the sight of

a kitten in distress, a dis-

abled person who refused

to be disabled, a man for

whom food was a delight,

and always made better

with a mound of Romano

cheese on top. We will

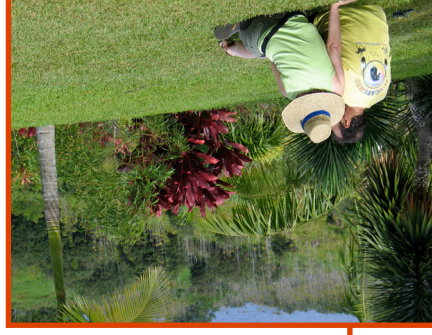
miss all of it: the passion,

the laughter, the love, as will the

many others who had the great

fortune to call Dino their friend.

*Ron and Renee Mascielli,
Northridge, California*



One of Dino's great joys was teaching boxing for ten years at area gyms, an opportunity provided most recently by Kim Moir, Bodies in Motion. In spite of physical limitations, he taught kids and adults with patience and passion.

In November Dino suffered another

severe stroke, limiting communication

and mobility and forcing him to leave

the home and lifestyle he loved. His

family and friends are deeply grateful

for the fine care provided by the com-

mitted and caring staff at the State Vet-

erans Home. Dino and Delores shared

supper daily. He watched the television

programs he loved and enjoyed visitors,

including many furry friends. Staff pro-

vided a punching bag for an occasional

jab and arranged gym visits so Dino

could spend time with friends.

Dino leaves

behind his

partner in

life, Delores

Aul, Hot

Springs;

stepdaughter

Jetaime (Tan-

ner Massee)

Aul, Win-

field, IL; stepson Brandon (Danielle)

Aul, Hoboken, NJ; brother-in-law Ron

Barry, Southfield, MI; niece Jennifer

(Alec) McCandless and family, Hartford

CT; nephew Gregg Barry, Royal Oak,

MI; by extended family, his furry family and more dear friends than can

possibly be listed here. He was preceded in death by parents Beatrice and

Giacomo DiGiacomo and recently by sister Norma (Ron) Barry.