

## Terrence "Terry" J. Murphy

May 24, 2025

Terrence (Terry) J Murphy, 81, of Surprise, Arizona, passed away on Saturday May 31, 2025.

Terry was born on August 21, 1943 in St. Paul, Minnesota where he grew up. He studied restaurant management at Michigan State University and became involved in the family restaurant business. From there he embarked on a varied career, including stints as a flight purser for Northwest Airlines, and a police officer in St. Paul Minnesota and Marin County, California. It was in California that he found his passion for helping people in selling real estate, becoming licensed in 1977. The last five years of his career were spent as the CEO of a large Association of Realtors group in Pasadena, California.

Terry spent his whole life believing that helping others is one of the important privileges of being human. Throughout Terry's diverse career, his caring for people became a common thread as he was continuously engaged in one or more volunteer assignments – which he always undertook with passion and commitment. While in California, he held leadership positions with the American Red Cross and United Way of the Bay area.

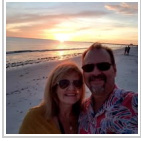
In 2011, Terry made the move to Arizona, and became an active member of his church, St. Mary's Basilica in Phoenix, where he served throughout the years on councils and committees.

Upon his retirement in 2014, he settled into the vibrant community of Sun City Grand in Surprise. It didn't take him long to begin volunteering within his new community, where his outstanding contributions landed him on the Board of Directors, serving as President in 2019-20. He also committed his time and talent to the national Community Associations Institute, where he was Arizona Chapter President in 2022.

Terry's greatest passion lay in working closely with individuals on a personal basis, including his work for the Surprise Fire/Medical Crisis Response Team where he provided support to families in their hours of need, the Safe Kids Program as a technician and instructor helping parents install car seats, and with the Dementia Friendly Surprise program, assisting people living with dementia and their care partners.

Terry will be remembered as a supportive friend, a loving father and partner, and a gentle spirit to all who knew him. Terry is survived by his granddaughter Emily Sundsmo, his great grandsons, Carter and Dylan, and his life partner, Suzanne. Terry requests that any remembrance donations be sent to the Benevilla organization in Surprise, a non-profit that embodies Terry's volunteer spirit and commitment to his community.

# Tribute Wall



“ I worked with Terry when he was CEO of Pasadena-Foothills Association of Realtors. Terry was a professional of the highest caliber and character. We remained friends after his retirement and I am deeply grieved to know this is why I hadn't heard from him in a while. Terry was so thoughtful about birthdays, anniversaries and holidays. He loved God, his country, his family, and people.

-----  
**Kelly Richardson** - October 02, 2025 at 05:04 PM

AR

“ Terry was my Godfather and a pillar of strength, wisdom, and warmth to all who knew him. Terry was a natural people person with a surplus of charm and dignity, which is why my brother asked him to be the officiant of his wedding in 2014. Terry's presence brought comfort, his words carried weight and his support for those he loved never wavered. He will be missed dearly and remembered always.

-----  
**Andrew Russell** - June 16, 2025 at 04:26 PM

DM

“ We were friends and my husband was Vice-President when Terry served on the Board of Directors as President. He was a wonderful man and was always willing to help. My husband admired him greatly



-----  
**Debbie Meyer** - June 14, 2025 at 09:46 PM

AC

“ Ashley At Simply Cremation lit a candle in memory of Terrence "Terry" J. Murphy



---

**Ashley at Simply Cremation** - June 13, 2025 at 04:41 PM

JC

*I met Terry thru his brother-in-law Larry at the softball field when he would stop by to visit. Then I had the opportunity to get to know him better when he was on the Board at Sun City Grand and I was a neighborhood representative. I will always remember him as a softspoken, gentle person with a kind word for everyone. Jackie Couzens*

---

**Jackie Couzens** - July 23, 2025 at 03:12 PM