

# Alphonse Acheritogaray

November 5th, 1933 - March 19th, 2019

Alphonse Acheritogaray passed away peacefully on March 19th, 2019 after a battle with dementia. Alphonse was born in 1933 in Baigorri, Lower Navarre, Basque Country in Southwest France and grew up in the neighboring village of Ortzaize. At a very young age Alphonse demonstrated great culinary aptitude and began an apprenticeship in the Basque coastal city of Biarritz. After three years, he was a chef at the age of 19 with two apprentices of his own. Alphonse served in the French Army during the Algerian War in Algeria and Germany; he later returned to be a chef in restaurants in Lourdes and Paris. In 1961 Alphonse immigrated to San Francisco and continued working as a chef at several San Francisco French restaurants, most notably at L'Etoile and L'Orangerie. In 1970 Alphonse married his love Daga Collén, a native of Strängö, Sweden and they

settled in San Francisco's Richmond District. They enjoyed traveling, entertaining friends and family and socializing in the Basque, French and Swedish communities. In the late 1970's Alphonse left the restaurant industry and took a position as the personal chef for a prominent San Francisco family, where he would spend the rest of his career and have many occasions to prepare special dinner parties for political dignitaries and renowned artists. Alphonse was very proud of his Basque ethnicity and his French heritage. He was a founding member of the Basque Club's marching bugle band (klika) and one of its first directors and played for over thirty years. He was also a founding member of the Basque Cultural Center and served on the center's restaurant board of directors for over thirty years as well. Alphonse was also a member of several French



clubs and was the past president and president of honor of the Anciens Combattants D'Afrique du Nord (veterans of North Africa). Alphonse was preceded in death by his parents, Philippe & Marie Jeanne Acheritogaray and is survived by his wife of 48 years, Daga, his three brothers Jeanot (Marie), Jean-Pierre, Jean-Baptiste (Isabelle) and by his six nieces and nephews, Philippe (Cathleen), Robert (Nathalie), Jean-Philippe, Christophe, Marina (Benjamin) & Elsa (Fabien), and

grandnieces & grandnephews.

A rosary & funeral mass will be celebrated on Monday, April 1st at 6:30pm at St. Monica's Church, 5920 Geary Blvd, San Francisco, CA 94121. Donations can be made to the Center for Basque Studies - UNR/ MS 2322, 1664 N. Virginia Street, Reno, NV 89557, please make checks payable to UNR Foundation, and indicate Alphonse Acheritogaray Memorial in the memo.