

VICK VICKLAND

by Toba Goddard

Elbert “Vick” Vickland, the folk dancer and singer many of us knew well, passed after a bout with cardiac and kidney failure on January 19, 2020. He was tenderly well cared for in his last days by his sons Jim and Mark and their entire families.

Vick began his dance career with his mother. He was often his mother’s partner as a young child and as a growing teen. He grew to really love it and continued for the rest of his 84 years, dancing primarily in the Sacramento and Foothill areas of California. Vick served as President of the Sacramento International Folk Dance and Arts Council and the Folk Dance Federation (2005-2007).

He was able to take his innate talent onto international cruise ships and Mississippi river boats as a dance host. He enjoyed taking international cruises and cruising on the Mississippi River in this fashion. He felt passionately about spreading the joy of folk dance and taught at the Boys and Girls Club, at the Renaissance Society in Sacramento, and (naturally) at Laguna Del Sol in near-by Wilton.

He also loved the music and, in fact, many forms of music such as traditional jazz and older popular tunes. He was able to exercise his lovely baritone voice while doing Balkan singing at the pre-dance Kolo Koalition group Sing Along with Toba (now Sing Along with Glynis), as well as belting out oldies and classical works with the Sacramento Choral Society, and at Singing for Fun with the Sacramento Renaissance Society.

His chosen profession as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker enabled him to work in several California counties with families in crisis. He strongly believed in keeping families together and used his counseling skills to achieve that with many of the families, employing the support of social workers and judges. He worked in the Peace Corps and, while in American Samoa, aided in establishing a mental hospital and bringing the one he found there out of the medieval age. I still hope his chickens are alive and well (sorry, private joke).

Dance and sing in peace, my friend.

P.S. Vick was also the person responsible for the final push to get the Folk Dance Federation 501(c)(e) status!



Vick Vickland during the Hat Kolo at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 2016. He attended Camp a dozen times between 1998 and 2018. *Photo by L. Tucker.*