

**DIANE ROSE**  
**Kampaign Kidz founder**

A memorial service was held Jan. 27 for Diane Rose, a well-known SoMa activist, who founded the Kampaign Kidz program, which turned neighborhood businesses into safe havens for kids to elude trouble on the street.

Ms. Rose died Dec. 28 at UCSF hospital from pneumonia. She was 51. Despite her relatively young age, her death was not completely unexpected. She had suffered for decades with diabetes, high blood pressure and liver problems.



PHOTO COURTESY OF O/AN MILLS

At the memorial held at South of Market Recreation Center, Ms. Rose's eldest son, Elgin Rose, was given a certificate by Lisa Block, Safety Network community organizer, on behalf of District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who sponsored a resolution from the Board of Supervisors to adjourn Jan. 4 in memory of his mother.

Certificates of Appreciation of Diane Rose were forthcoming from the District Attorney Community Court program and the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services.

Judy Edmonds, also a Safety Network community organizer who often worked with Ms. Rose on safety campaigns, organized the memorial. She told nearly 100 mourners: "Diane was in the Bayview, in the Western Addition, she was all over, but I do believe her heart was here in SoMa."

Elgin Rose addressed the crowd: "My mom was hard-working all her life, from the time she was in Ohio, Georgia and in California. When I think of my mother, and what she went through at her age, I'm truly amazed at how much she was able to accomplish."

Born May 1, 1953, Diane Rose graduated from Jessup W. Scott High School in Toledo, Ohio. She was the mother and single parent of two boys, Elgin and Eric, and had three grandchildren.

During her three decades in San Francisco, she was an arbitrator for the Community Court and a member of the first class to graduate from the Citizens' Police Academy. She helped found the academy's alumni association.

Police Lt. Colleen Fatooh, head of SFPD's controversial School Resource Officers program, which has placed 27 armed police officers inside city schools, told the assembled: "Diane was like a member of our own police department. She was a genuine practitioner of community policing and in the weeks immediately after her death her name was mentioned with great sadness in the various stationhouses where she was known." Ms. Rose was a vocal supporter of the program.

Officer Rose Melendez, coordinator of the Citizens' Police Academy, spoke next. "Diane had a great smile. She was always so enthusiastic." Melendez recalled how excited Ms. Rose became when she got to ride in a police car during an officer's shift. "She came back saying she'd seen things so differently by being in the car. 'I can't wait to tell people what I saw,'" Melendez quoted.

"That was one thing about Diane that was different," she added. "When she got information, she always returned it to the community."

Helen Sant, SoMa Rec Center director, said she'd known Ms. Rose for 16 years. "About two years ago," she recalled, "we were sitting in some neighborhood café, enjoying the late afternoon light. She didn't look good and I asked her what was wrong."

Sant said Ms. Rose revealed that she had gone off her medication regimen. "She chose not to take her medication because, she said, she wanted to stay focused on her work," Sant recalled. "She took herself off disability, against her doctor's advice, and went back to work full-time."

"She didn't want to be a victim of illness. She didn't want to be focused on doctors and meds. I knew then that Diane would not live to a ripe old age. She chose bravery over timidity."

Fire Capt. Ed Campbell, a member of Kampaign Kidz' advisory board, spoke of how Ms. Rose was always the first to volunteer. "When there was something difficult that had to be done, she was always the one willing to do it." Campbell recalled one time he was awakened at 3 a.m. by a phone call from Ms. Rose, still working at that hour.

Campbell said others must step up and take her place in the never-ending fight for child safety.

Despite more than a dozen speakers, only one per-

son, an unidentified neighbor of Ms. Rose, displayed tears. The mood of the audience did not seem somber. People were paying tribute to Diane Rose for her indefatigable spirit.

A notice on the bulletin board outside the rec center gym perhaps best expressed the mood of the people assembled. "The struggle is over. Rest easy now," it said.

- PHIL TRACY

**EDGAR DENNY**  
**Loved to cook**

Edgar Denny was among the first three of 126 residents to move into the splendidly renovated Ambassador Hotel on March 31, 2003. It must have been green pastures for the formerly homeless man.

Tall and thin, he became a proud, model resident who kept largely to himself. Yet Mr. Denny often thought of others' needs. He also derived great joy from having cooking facilities. Those were some of the memories of three social workers who attended his Jan. 13 memorial at the hotel.

"He was very excited about moving here," said St. Anthony's social worker Bertha Dickerson who worked with Mr. Denny for two years. "He had been homeless for a while — he wasn't in a wheelchair then — and his life was hard. He had a lot to cope with. But he had a tremendous concern for others. When he'd hear of a program, he'd say right away who he knew that it would help. I was



always glad to see him."

Mr. Denny died Dec. 29 at S.F. General from cancer. He was 71. In his last six months, the disease had forced him to periodically use a wheelchair.

Ambassador manager Gabrielle Desmond hadn't realized Mr. Denny had gone to S.F. General during the bustle of the holidays. A large hospital bed had been moved into his room, and she was trying to find him a bigger space to accommodate the wheelchair, which Mr. Denny disliked as much as the fact he needed help.

"He was one of my better residents," Desmond said, "a delightful man. It's very sad. He was so happy about cooking. I think he must have been a chef at some point. I could never picture him as homeless."

"He cooked in the (common) kitchen. Then, when he couldn't move as well, it was in his room. He wasn't happy that he needed (in-home) assistance."

Kim Denny of Tracy, his daughter, did not attend the service and had earlier taken away his effects.

- TOM CARTER

**TYRONE ROGERS**  
**'A very good black American dude'**

Few at Tyrone Rogers' Feb. 3 memorial knew much about his life, but one after another they added impressions of the man and what he'd meant to them.

"He was full of life and cared about others and stood up for them."

"Very honest, sweet."

"A good person, Godly, and I miss him so much already."

"Despite his physical problems, he was always cheerful."

"He was a very good black American dude, a nice man."

"Capable of the most elementary courtesies, always."



"I know he's listening to us — he was a good boy and did a fine job of living — but he was a nightmare to go shopping with."

Mr. Rogers died Jan. 19 at the Camelot Hotel, where he had lived for a year. He was 57.

Long-term physical ailments had forced him into a wheelchair, but he still loved parties and often was out and about in the Tenderloin.

"He did love to go shopping," said Shannon Hugon, the hotel's support services manager. "We don't know much about his past, but we do know that he was born in Ohio, his mother still lives there, and he once was an elementary school teacher."

On a table at the memorial were numerous photos of Mr. Rogers, a bouquet of fresh flowers, a large candle and many small tea light candles, which the Rev. Glenda Hope, who officiated at the service, invited the mourners to come up and light, one at a time.

Hope looked at the photo of Mr. Rogers at the Camelot's last Christmas party. "What everyone's expressed here reminds me of the spiritual ('I Got Shoes')," she said. "Even though Tyrone was in a wheelchair, with that great smile of his, with his shoes and his robe, I'm sure he's gonna walk all over God's heaven."

- MARJORIE BEGGS

**TOMMIE JAMES DENMON**  
**The Senator's star**

The Senator Hotel lost its most popular resident when Tommie James Denmon, a big, gentle man with a "Texas" smile, a helping hand and a good word for everyone, died of bone cancer Jan. 20. He was 56.

Mr. Denmon lived at the Senator with his wife, Selease, and teenage daughter, Tamara. He was president of the hotel's tenants' council.

At Mr. Denmon's Feb. 2 memorial, in a community room at 201 Eddy, hotel counselor Diana Austin called the 6-foot-4 Texan, sports buff and former defensive end in college a "peacemaker." His niece, Princess Yarway, said he was "a good friend to people with problems and he loved children."

To Adam Russell, a young white man wearing a Kofi hat, Mr. Denmon was somewhat of a father figure.

"He gave to the Senator and to the community," Russell declared to the gathering of 20 people. "He always had a kind word for everyone and he was a man you could always talk to, and he's an example I'll always try to follow. He was nice as a prairie dog. I wish he could have been my stepfather."

Earl Gadsen, a friend from San Jose, read scriptures, then in his rich voice sang extemporaneously as the crowd clapped in rhythm.

Mr. Denmon worked for Reynolds Aluminum, Ashland Chemical and CNA Insurance in Arkansas Pass, Texas, before coming to the Bay Area. He was at the Senator eight years. His last job here, friends said, was in pest control.

Hotel janitor James Chinn said Mr. Denmon supplied fellow fans with team stat sheets when watching sports on television in the lobby, and that he voluntarily cleaned the aquarium and bought food for the fish out of his own pocket.

"I will always miss him," one man said. "I hope to meet another brother like that sometime." One woman tried to speak but was too emotionally wrought to be understood.

Mr. Denmon's wife and daughter did not attend the memorial. They were returning from Texas where Mr. Denmon's four sons, two sisters and a brother live. A fifth son lives in South Carolina and a second daughter, Tammie, lives in San Francisco.

- TOM CARTER



**HARVEY ROYBAL**  
**'Nice knowing you'**

Alexander Residence tenant Harvey Roybal died Feb. 4 after a long battle with cancer. He was 64.

According to Winnie Kwong, the hotel's social worker, few people there knew Mr. Roybal, who'd lived at the residence only a short time and spent much of it in the hospital.

"He did have a son, who lived in New Mexico," Kwong said, "and he came to see his father often."

A memorial scheduled for Feb. 16 was canceled because no one attended. However, many residents signed a condolence card. Unconventionally, it was directed to Mr. Roybal himself, rather than to his family.

Many sent him messages of blessings and wished him peace in the hereafter.

One wrote, "Hi Harvey. It was nice knowing you when you was here. R.I.P."

At the desk in the lobby of the residence, the receptionist remembered Mr. Roybal fondly. "He was so sweet," she said. "He gave me a kimono for my birthday."

- MARJORIE BEGGS