

Daniel Leigh Mackey

American Fitness Pioneer

(1937-2008)



Daniel Leigh Mackey, owner of Ventura's oldest health club, *The Gym*, passed away Dec. 27, 2007.

To anyone who knew or met Dan, his positive energy and spirit toward life, health and fitness was a life changing event.

Born in Akron, Ohio, to Ralph and Willa Mackey on Sept. 25, 1937. Dan moved to Southern California in 1956. He became a major participant and influence in the golden age of bodybuilding, working alongside such famous names as Vince Gironda, Dave Draper, Don Holworth, and Arnold Schwarzenegger. In 1970, Dan established the Gym in Ventura, bringing healthy living and fun to a city in need, creating a meeting place for many members over the years located on Main Street. Dan competed in bodybuilding competitions, earning championship titles such as AAU Mr. Pacific Coast, Mr. USA, and Mr. Western America, and was a Golden Glove champion in boxing. The Gym produced its share of championships as well with members winning top titles in the Ventura County and Pacific Coast bodybuilding championships.

Dan was truly a fitness guru. He could be found every morning working out at The Gym and created a positive aura through his wisdom and wit.

Dan is survived by his wife, Billie Mackey of Atascadero; daughters, Dani Lynn Ammon and husband Jay, Shawn Cheryl Freeman and husband Bruce, Alicia Renee Jordian and husband Henry; grandson, Damon Ammons; and granddaughter, Jade Freeman.

An old-fashioned Irish wake will be begin at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5, 2008, at 494 E. Main St., downtown Ventura.

The family would like thank everyone for their kind thoughts and support.

Flowers may be sent in his memory to the Gym, 2498 E. Main St., Ventura.

Mrs. Mackey has been entrusted to the care of the family-owned Joseph Reardon Funeral Home, 757 E. Main St., downtown Ventura; phone 805-643-8623.