

Dear Friends at Midland School,

Stephen Griffith Gassaway passed away on February 27, 2009, aged 95. He graduated the first year of Midland School, in 1933. Inspired by founding headmaster Paul Squibb, Steve chose to teach. He completed his studies at Occidental College and soon afterwards himself became headmaster at the Bonita School for Boys in San Diego County. With World War Two, the school was closed. A conscientious objector, Steve continued teaching. Abroad with his family, 1957-58, Steve attended the University of London, documenting England's school field studies centers. In the final years of his career, he was a dedicated travelling home-school teacher. Steve contributed his recollections of study and life at Midland for the book Dominion over Palm and Pine. The one year spent at Midland School was pivotal to the choices Steve made during the rest of his life. Grateful for his own experience, and a recipient of financial aid, he made donations to Midland to help other young people benefit from participation in this exceptional school.

Steve met his future wife, Molly Loomis, at Midland, where her two brothers also attended. After graduating from college, Steve and Molly returned to Midland in 1938 to celebrate their marriage. Steve, Molly, and their five children revisited Midland many times, and maintained friendships with Paul and Louise Squibb, Master Mack Parks and resident Louise Chrimes until they passed away.

While at Midland, Steve fell in love with the school's rolling hills and open spaces. Steve and Molly built their own home in the country in the early 40s. In addition, some of their family's greatest adventures took place while camping. Thanks to both of them, their five children have enjoyed a life-long passion for the out-of-doors. Abroad with his family, 1957-58, Steve attended the University of London, documenting England's field study centers.

Steve was active in civic affairs, affiliated with the YMCA, supporter of the Peace Resource Center of San Diego and a founding member of the county's Fellowship of Reconciliation. In retirement, he served on the board of the Episcopal Community Services, and he delivered bread to the needy for ten years.

Steve passed away peacefully in this same house that he and Molly built. Beloved husband, father and friend, Steve is remembered for his devotion to family, his kindness, gentleness, gracious hospitality, cheerfulness, sense of humor, gifted storytelling, scholarship, love for teaching, his spiritual strength and service to others.

Steve is survived by his wife Molly, children Jude, Anne, Kathy, Dana and Joel, and twenty-one grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Anne (Gassaway) Brown