

IN MEMORIAM: GUY MCCORMACK, PHD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Dr. Guy McCormack, a compassionate mentor and visionary leader in occupational therapy, profoundly shaped the profession with his innovative contributions and his gentle guiding spirit, passed away peacefully on July 22, 2024, in San Francisco. Guy is survived by his wife Norma McCormack, married 38 years and two sons and spouse (Guyon McCormack of Los Angeles, CA; Devin and spouse Claire McCormack of San Francisco, CA). Also survived by brother Alan McCormack of San Diego CA and sisters Eileen Luongo of Port St Lucie, Florida, and Anna Kip of Poughkeepsie, NY.

Guy practiced as an occupational therapist and professor for over 47 years. He was recruited to teach in the Occupational Therapy department at [San Jose State University](#) where he served for sixteen years and became a tenured full professor. He was the founding program director for the Occupational Therapy program at [Samuel Merritt University](#) in Oakland, California. He also served as the program director of the Occupational Therapy Program at the [University of Missouri in Columbia](#), Missouri where he converted the curriculum from a bachelor's degree to a master's degree program. Guy returned to Samuel Merritt University as a teaching professor and researcher to assist with the development of the occupational therapy doctoral degree program. Guy was also instrumental in and served as pioneer visionary to develop the entry level doctoral program at the [University of the Pacific](#) in Sacramento Ca.

Throughout his career Guy was active in state and national advocacy. He served as Chair of Government Affairs when occupational therapists and occupational assistants became licensed in California. He served two times as vice president for the [Occupational Therapy Association of California \(OTAC\)](#). He also served on the Board for the American Occupational Political Action Committee (AOTPAC). He participated on the editorial board for the Annals of International Occupational Therapy for Slack publishing and was a member of the Editorial Board for the Open Journal of Occupational Therapy (OJOT) for Western Michigan University. Guy also served on the Program Director's Advisory Committee for the National Board of Certification for Occupational Therapy (NBCOT), a grant reviewer for the Center for Disease Control and as an item writer for the Neuro-Rehabilitation Certification Examination for the American Occupational Therapy Association.

Guy had an active research agenda where he involved students in his grant funded approved projects. His research has ranged from studies in alternative and complementary interventions to integration of neuroscience evidence into occupational therapy practice. Guy was inducted in the American Occupational Therapy Roster of Fellows for "Scholarly Excellence in the Mindbody Therapeutic Approach."

Scholarly publications included two book authorships on the *Therapeutic Use of Touch for Health Professionals and Pain Management*, and he was the co-editor for the *OT Manager*. He published many journal articles and chapters in peer reviewed publications and presented over 70 papers at state, national and international conferences. He has been an advisor for 67 thesis and master's projects for graduate students in occupational therapy.

Guy has received The Lifetime Achievement Award from the Occupational Therapy Association of California, Congressional Recognition for Service to the Community by Congresswomen Barbara Lee, California Assembly Resolution for Professional and Educational Leadership- from Robert Bonta, In addition, the Award of Recognition for Achieving Occupational Therapy Licensure in California (SB1046), the Outstanding Service Award, Occupational Therapy Association of California, the Strommen-Dillashaw Award for "Exemplary Commitment to the University and Teaching", and the Award of Merit from the Santa Clara Chapter of Occupational Therapy and the Meritorious Performance Award-San Jose State University.

Guy enjoyed his retirement (2021) in Seaside, California where he became a prolific painter and displayed his work at the Monterey Peninsula Art Foundation. He enjoyed walks on the beach with his wife Norma and Kaia (his miniature Australian shepherd), travels and visits with family and friends. Guy was a mentor for many faculty and students over the years and his skillful teaching and interest in deeper knowledge will be carried forward by all those who had the chance to work and learn from him. His character of gentle kindness and humbleness was ever present and will be missed.

Guy touched the lives of many throughout his career in occupational therapy and as an artist, his paintings are a tribute to the therapeutic value of art and the greater good that comes out of creativity.

Private services held in Seaside Ca. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Occupational Therapy programs mentioned ([University of the Pacific](#), [Samuel Merritt](#), [San Jose](#), [University of Missouri](#)) or [CFOT](#) & [Occupational Therapy Association of California](#) will be accepted in his honor, for the many years of commitment to the profession of Occupational Therapy.