

Former Kansas City area resident Michael Tolle Owen, 67, died peacefully May 8, 2014 at the Zen Hospice House in San Francisco, California after a long and courageous battle with brain cancer. Mr. Owen was born December 10, 1946 in Atlanta, Georgia to Rosebillie Tolle (Owen) Horn and George Albert Owen.

He graduated from Shawnee Mission East High School in 1964 and attended the University of Missouri at Kansas City then went on to study theater at the Pasadena Playhouse in California.

A life long entertainer, Owen's credits include work at Kansas City's Starlight Theater, UMKC, The Circle Theater and a starring role in a touring company of the rock musical HAIR. He traveled the world and had many occupations in the arts, including being an event planner in NYC. He directed fashion shows at the Dallas Apparel Mart. In Russia, he orchestrated and produced a fashion show representing both Russia and the US. He spent time living and working with art in Bali and Hawaii. The last seven years he lived in San Francisco developing a software project called NewZonia that was picked up by Apple for their iPad Apps. It coupled charities and the arts through the internet.

Michael chose to love. He loved his family. He loved his friends. He loved his animals. He loved singing, acting, dancing, designing, and creating. He loved life. His life light was extinguished way too quickly, but his legacy of love will live on in those who knew him. We will carry his light and spread his love.

Sister Paddy Owen Hamill of Lenexa, KS and brother Jon Christopher Owen (Lisa) of Orlando, Fl survive Mr. Owen who also leaves behind nieces Georgia Lynne Ross (Johnny), Jill Elisabeth Andersen (Darrin), Sydney Owen Williams (Barry) and Whitney Angela Owen as well as great nieces Sarah Laine Ross, Claire Elizabeth Ross, Emma Rose Andersen, Grace Harper Andersen and great nephews Andrew Joseph Ross and Owen James Andersen. A celebration of Michael's life will be held at the home of his niece, Jill Andersen. 5105 West 164th Street, Overland Park, KS 66085 on Saturday June 7, 2014 from 6:00-10:00pm. Family, friends and acquaintances are welcome to bring your favorite stories of Michael. Additional celebrations will be held in New York and San Francisco, both cities that Michael called home, at a future date.

The family suggests memorial donations be made to San Francisco's Zen Hospice Project 273 Page Street, San Francisco, CA 94102.