

In Memoriam

The Board of Directors of the ariZoni Theatre Awards of Excellence would like to take a moment to remember those we lost this year. Thanks to the theaters and friends who sent us information so that we may humbly pay tribute to:

Cagney Hacker: While most of us can definitely relate to the pain felt from the loss of a beloved pet, this is a first for the ariZonis to recognize. Please join me in remembering Cagney Hacker, beloved dog of Mary Ann and Peter Hacker of Fountain Hills. Cagney delighted audiences when he played Sandy in Annie Warbucks at Fountain Hills Community Theatre.

To Charles Eugene "Charley" Gyder: philanthropist, arts lover, and West Valley Businessman. Charley loved Peoria and was constantly looking for ways to improve the lives of those living there. Charley and his family were instrumental in the capital campaign to raise funds to build the new Performing Arts Center, housing Theater Works, in downtown Peoria. "He lived what he believed" and it has been said the Gyder family's greatest impact has been "to have never given up on downtown."

To Richard D. "Rick" Waymire. Although Rick was well known in the Glendale Real Estate and Mortgage business, he was much more well known to OUR community as the co-owner of Waymire Studio for the Performing Arts. The gentle man, known as a great friend, and teddy bear to many, has left a hole in our hearts, and in the acting community. His passing was announced by wife and studio co-owner Linda Waymire, who said, "Rick slipped away peacefully and my mind knows he's in a better place. I'm trying to get my heart to catch up."

And finally to **Ethan Ellsworth** - age 7 - son of Actor's Youth Theatre's Executive Director, Marcus Ellsworth, and his wife Kimberly. Taken from us way too soon, Ethan lived his young life to the fullest: very energetic about sports teams, friends, school, and perhaps mostly: plays and music. He was kind-hearted and compassionate and had many close friends! Ethan was most recently seen in Mesa Encore Theatre's "Once on this Island" and as one of the lost boys in Actor's Youth Theatre's "Peter Pan & Wendy."

To these wonderful actors and friends, and to the others lost in our community this year, let us take a moment to say, "See ya later" while their stars twinkle in the heavens to light the paths of those of us left behind.

Thank you.