



Tom Di Maggio

Tom Di Maggio was born in Trapani, Sicily, on November 18, 1922. When he was 16 months old his father Sebastiano died leaving his mother pregnant with his sister Sebastiana and unable to care for him. He then went to live with his maternal grandparents in San Vito Lo Capo. He started fishing with his grandfather when he was just nine years old.

In an effort to provide a better life for her son, Tom's mother Maria sent him to the United States when he was 17 years old to avoid conscription into the fascist dictator Benito Mussolini's military. He moved to Monterey to live with extended family and began fishing with Salvatore Di Mercurio on the Redeemer. Salvatore eventually became his father-in-law.

On April 24, 1949, Tom married Eva Di Mercurio and they raised three children, Tom, Marilyn and Salvatore. They are also grandparents to Meredith, Marilyn's daughter. In 2019 Tom and Eva celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary with family and friends. Eva passed away in June of 2021.

During Tom's commercial fishing career he owned many boats including the Tommy D., Ronnie F., Sea Queen, Sockeye and the Scirocco. For 40 years during

the summer months he would relocate to Alaska and fish for salmon. He was a well-known and respected figure in the Alaska and Monterey fishing communities.

In November of 2022, a 100th birthday celebration was held at the Elk's Lodge. The following year when Tom turned 101 he again celebrated his birthday with a party at the Elk's Lodge. He plans on having a party at the Elk's every year.

Tom is a member of the Sanctuary Bible church in Carmel Valley, the Italian Catholic Federation, Compare Club, Festa Italia, Elks Lodge and a participant in the "Giovanottis", a group of Italian men that cook for various charitable events. Tom was the grand marshal in the Festa Italia parade in 2010 and also the grand marshal in the City of Monterey Fourth of July parade in 2023. Tom's enjoyment has included bocce ball, casino trips, Sicilian card games and world travel, including visiting family in Sicily.

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