***President’s Message June, 2020***

***The Passing of a Star***

***NMRacquetball.com New Mexico Racquetball Facebook page***

**William Matotan passed away on May 30th. A true gentleman; he parlayed a diverse skill set into success with family, business, and athletics. Preceded in death by Tommie, his wife for over 60 years, he passed six months shy of his 99th birthday. One of his longtime NM racquetball foes, Al Romero, said the following during a newspaper interview: ‘As an over 80 year old player, my goal is to stay alive long enough to be the top player in my age group by default. I cannot defeat Matotan.’ Al passed away shortly thereafter; while Bill continued to compete in different competitions, including local and state Championships plus the IRF World Senior Championships. He played top tier racquetball for over 40 years and competed against some of the greatest of all time; including Carl Loveday and Luzelle Wilde. In 2017, Bill and Lake Westphal made history in Albuquerque; playing in the ‘final’ of the Mens 95+ division. This match ended in a Westphal tiebreak victory, 11-10. Local television was there to provide coverage. Both were asked about future goals; and, each added a desire to meet in another final in the 100+ division. Lake continues to play at age 97.**

**Born in Ohio, Matotan’s family moved to Deming, NM as a young man. At Deming High School, ‘Billy’ was a top basketball athlete. Upon graduation he embarked on a WWII journey. He later graduated from UNM and the Illinois Institute of Technology. Returning to Albuquerque, he started a Civil Engineering firm with the support of over 50 employees. He honed his athletic skills at the Elks Club, Tom Young’s Athletic Club, Supreme Courts, Academy Court Club, Rio Grande Sporting Club, and finally at the NM Sports and Wellness Midtown club. Up until two years ago he was a regular at Midtown, playing a hybrid every week, including one day of racquetball and two days of handball. His dominance came with a drive serve to either side; keeping opponents guessing and off balance.**

**Bill was a world traveler, an art collector, and full of surprises. In 1986 I asked that he perform a home inspection and submit a certified engineer’s report. For 8 hours he sequestered himself in a downtown Albuquerque attic. I thought he would never come out! The next day he delivered the professional report. More recently, at age 89, I again secured his services to inspect a property in the foothills of the city. He followed me up a ladder to preview potential roof damage. I had planned to be solo on the roof.**

**As we are in the midst of the pandemic, Bill’s memorial and tribute are on hold. Hopefully sooner rather than later, many family and friends will gather in Deming. Bill leaves behind daughter Lee, son Steven, and daughter in law Tammy.**

**After all is told, this star ‘shined bright.’**

**Gary Mazaroff**

***Quote of the month…’We come with the dust & we go with the wind’ Woody Guthrie***

***Serving New Mexico, Southern Colorado, and West Texas since 1977***