In Memoriam:
Paul E. Thomas, M.D.
CSA Past President

Paul Thomas, who served as president of the California Society of Anesthesiologists from 1983 to 1984, died on August 4, 2008, at age 74. Paul had sub-aortic stenosis, developed pneumonia, and experienced multiple organ failure during a prolonged stay in MICU. He is survived by his wife, Gwen, sons Scott and Mark, and their wives and two granddaughters. Paul was born in Colorado and received all of his education there, including his internship. He did a residency at Charity Hospital in New Orleans and then joined Anesthesia Service Medical Group, Inc. in San Diego, an entity which ultimately grew to be the largest single specialty medical group in the country, with 185 members. Paul was a member of the Scripps Memorial Hospital medical staff in La Jolla for more than 30 years. He participated actively in organizational medical affairs at the hospital, and was a member of the Professional Conduct Committee of the San Diego County Medical Society for 22 years. After retiring, he served on the medical staff at the San Diego Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS).

Paul made time to participate actively in community affairs, including as Chair of two councils of Homeowners Associations, board member of the Copley Family YMCA, and long-time president of Trinity Lutheran Church. On April 28, 2003, the San Diego City Council proclaimed "Paul Thomas Day" in recognition of his many years of service to the San Diego community.

On a personal level, Paul was one of my very closest friends. We had many common interests—not the least of which was general aviation. Each of us owned a Beechcraft Bonanza, and we spent many wonderful hours flying throughout this country, Canada, and Mexico. We survived through the exercise of vigilance, caution, and decent judgment, combined, of course, with frequent advanced instrument training. Paul lived his life with zest and enthusiasm and always seemed to find humor in circumstances which many would describe as far more serious than they really were. His philosophy was to make every day count, and he did. Those of us who really knew Paul are left with many profound and wonderful memories.

John S. Hattox, M.D.
Past ASA President (1980) and CSA President (1966-1967)