

**Tribute to Toney Edwards
November 25, 2019**

**Toney Edwards
Vice-President Compagnons du Beaujolais, Devoir de NY
1944-2018**

William Toney Edwards, 74, restaurateur, designer, and yachtsman, died November 10, 2018 of pancreatic cancer in Stuart, Florida. The son of Mae Sue Thompson and William Van Buren Edwards, Jr. he was born in Amarillo, Texas, and grew up in Wichita Falls. He attended UT and [Yale University](#) where he trained in technical theater and design. Toney worked in theaters in Rochester, Minnesota, and Atlanta. He opened Las Amis Cafe in Austin in 1970, and is best known as proprietor of Le Madeleine in New York City from 1979 to 2008. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Toney was part of the first group of Maitres Compagnons who dedicated their time and efforts to the promotion of the wines of Beaujolais through highlighting the great work done by local vigneron. He participated in the first trip to the region in the mid 90's as part of the Best Beaujolais Bistro Cup as the owner of Le Madeleine. On September 12, 2001, he hosted a planned Beaujolais tasting at his famed restaurant, just to show terrorists that he was not impressed. He signed up as the Vice-President of the Compagnons du Beaujolais, Devoir de NY at its inception in September 2002 and barely missed a chapter until last year. He had moved to Florida earlier in 2018, leaving us somewhat orphaned. He wanted to start anew, but life took a different turn for him.

We will never drink a glass of Beaujolais without thinking about him, his generosity, his kindness, his smarts and his positive outlook on life.

Jacques Capsouto, Maitre Compagnon, President

Toney was a very good friend he will be missed ... God bless your soul .

Michel Rougier, Former Director of Inter-Beaujolais, Membre d'honneur of Compagnons du Beaujolais

Tony avait l'élégance d'un Britannique, l'énergie d'un Américain, et la convivialité d'un Beaujolais !

En plus, c'était un marin il savait naviguer avec talent et chaleur sur la mer de l'AMITIE.

Il nous laisse de merveilleux souvenirs , mais il va vraiment nous manquer.

Bon vent Cher Toney sur la mer de la sérénité !

John Bianrosa, Maitre Compagnon,

Toney was my mentor who got me involved with the Compagnons. I will always remember him as an affable and generous man. Rest in Peace.

Claude Godart, Maitre Compagnon, Treasurer

Toney was a great gentleman with a huge sense of humor. I am sure that we will all miss him a lot.

Jean-Paul Rampon, Maitre Compagnon, worldwide President

J'ai compris que Toney Edwards, Maitre Compagnon du Beaujolais est décédé. C'est une bien triste nouvelle pour tous. Je vous prie chère Pamela, de saluer de la part des Compagnons du Beaujolais, sa famille et tous ses proches.

Bien respectueuses salutations.