

GROWERTALKS

GT in Brief

9/30/2025

Remembering Tom Piini

Chris Beytes

Another passing, this time of Tom Piini, the founder and president of Micro Grow Control Systems of Temecula, California, on August 4. He was 71.

Tom was a pioneer in the greenhouse industry, creating some of the first computerized environmental controls for greenhouses. He and his team developed controls for watering systems, propagation, misting and fogging, and his controls are used in every kind of greenhouse and indoor growing space, from commercial greenhouses to university and research institutions. In 2013, Micro Grow expanded with the acquisition of control manufacturer QCOM.

Tom's contributions extended far beyond technology; he built a company culture rooted in integrity, service and a passion for advancing agriculture.

"Tom Piini is a legend in our industry," said Dan Bilhorn, owner of United Greenhouse. "We worked on hundreds of projects together and we were friends for over 40 years. Tom was brilliant about what a project needed and a gregarious, kind man. I will miss him forever."

Tom's son, Chris, vice president of the family business, is now at the helm, ensuring the continuity of the values and innovation his father championed. Chris said he and his team—many who have more than 20 years of service—are committed to honoring Tom's legacy while guiding the company into its next chapter.

"My father was a true pioneer—not just for this company, but for an entire industry," said Chris. "He believed in creating solutions that made indoor agriculture accessible, efficient and sustainable. It is an honor to continue his work and carry forward the vision he dedicated his life to." **GT**