

mm A Moment at Check-stand #6

I pushed my shopping cart into line
at Safeway check-stand #6...
masked...and 6 feet back.
I chose the 15-items-or-less line...
because the checker was Brian
a long-time friend.
We shared a good friend...
named Tom...
who died this year in Arizona.
Brian checks fast and talks fast...
always a smiling personal chat
with every customer.
My turn now...a smile then a memory...
"So sorry about Tom..."
"Yes," I say.
"It still hurts..." he scans items as he talks...
"Yes...me too..."
I'm fishing for my wallet.
"He was special to my family..."
"and.to many families like yours..."
I add while slipping my debit card into the slot.
"He lived a long and useful life..."
while handing my receipt...
"It was great to have known him..." I added.
Brian looked into my eyes with a final smile and quiet word...
"Bless his heart..."
"Yes...bless his heart."
Brian turned to his next customer...
I gathered my bags...
and headed out the door.
Only two minutes...maybe three...
a virtual memorial moment
at Safeway check-stand #6.

---- Art Morgan