



David John Pena

March 8, 1947 - December 31, 2025

With deep sadness and gratitude for a life well-lived, the family of David John Pena announces his passing on December 31, 2025, at the age of 78.

David was preceded in death by his wonderful parents, Mike C. Pena and Betty Guterrez Pena, and his dear son, David V. Pena. He is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Patricia Leos Pena; his three children, Linda Pena (Joseph), Michael Pena (Alicia), and Steven Pena (Breana); his nine grandchildren, Michael Jr., Nathaniel, Alex, Lily, Avah, Kellan, Avery, Jaxson, and Hudson; one great-grandchild, Leia; his three brothers and three sisters; and many nieces and nephews.

On March 8, 1947, Mike and Betty Pena welcomed their firstborn, David, into the world in Visalia, California. He grew up in Woodlake, California, working and playing alongside his hardworking and fun-loving family and friends. He attended Woodlake schools from kindergarten through his graduation at Woodlake High School in 1965, forever upholding 'Tiger Pride'.

David was a proud United States Army veteran. He was drafted in 1966 and honorably served his country during the Vietnam War from 1966 to 1968, where he was stationed at Camp Di An with the 1st S&T 1st Division. Upon returning home, he met and married the love of his life, Patricia Leos. A dedicated professional, David served the California Department of Corrections

for 28 years, retiring as a Correctional Sergeant in 2000.

David loved sports and could often be found watching almost any game on television, especially football, basketball, and soccer. One of his greatest joys was watching his grandchildren participate in various sports and activities. He also loved riding his Harley-Davidson motorcycle for many years and enjoyed bike runs with his wife and friends.

David and Patricia shared a love of travel and created many cherished memories together and with family. His adventures included vibrant cities like Las Vegas, Orlando, and New Orleans, alongside natural wonders in Alaska, and rich cultures in the Bahamas, Thailand, Italy, and Japan.

Above all else, David loved his wife and family. He showed his love through the everyday things he did and the life he lived. He was always a steady and calming presence with a quiet strength that gave comfort to all who knew him.

We thank you, Dad, for all the love you gave us and for the wonderful life you provided. You will be loved and missed every day. You will live in our hearts forever.

Viewing will be held 5-7pm Tuesday, January 13th, 2026 at Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel, 127 E. Caldwell Ave., Visalia. Funeral services will be held 9:30am Wednesday, January 14th, 2026 at Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel, with burial to follow at Visalia District Cemetery, 1300 W Goshen Ave, Visalia.

Services have been entrusted to Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel. Memorial Tributes and condolences may be offered by logging onto www.salseranddillard.com.

Previous Events

Viewing

JAN 13. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel
127 E. Caldwell Ave.
Visalia, CA 93277

Funeral

JAN 14. 9:30 AM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel
127 E. Caldwell Ave.
Visalia, CA 93277

Graveside

JAN 14. 11:00 AM (PT)

Visalia District Cemetery
1300 W Goshen Ave
Visalia, CA 93291

Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of David John Pena*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - January 13 at 04:16 PM



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of David John Pena*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - January 13 at 04:10 PM



“ *Condolences to the family. David and I went to Woodlake High, he was one year ahead. Most memorable time was a night we accidentally met in Seattle. We spent the entire night with other soldiers. We both shipped to Vietnam from Ft Lewis about the same time. I will miss his good humor and friendship.*

Larry Jacquez - January 13 at 12:22 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of David John Pena.*



January 11 at 02:47 AM



“ *Alicia Rodriguez planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David John Pena.*

Alicia Rodriguez - January 11 at 02:47 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of David John Pena.*



January 10 at 10:22 PM



“ *Cece, Deni and Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of David John Pena.*



Cece, Deni and Family - January 10 at 01:18 PM