



Dennis Andrade Cortez

April 8, 1934 - April 13, 2023

Dennis A. Cortez, 89, of Visalia, CA, entered into his eternal life on the evening of Thursday, April 13 with his devoted wife and loving family by his side. He will be missed beyond measure by his immediate family, extended relatives and long-time friends across the country.

Dennis was born in Gamerco, New Mexico to Juan and Francisca Cortez on April 8, 1934. One of eight children, Dennis greatly loved and admired each of his seven siblings. The Cortez family moved to San Jose, CA in 1946 where he attended James Lick High School, competing on the football and basketball teams. Dennis spent his California summers working on a farm, folding boxes for fruit packaging. His work ethic led to a promotion to supervisor by the age of 15.

After high school, Dennis attended San Jose City College for about a year before joining the US Army in 1955. Soon after completing basic training, he was on a ship bound for Korea to serve out his first deployment. However, on the way to Korea, the ship malfunctioned, forcing all on board to be re-deployed elsewhere. Dennis chose a transfer to Misawa Air Force Base in Japan. On a weekend leave, he and several friends decided to visit nearby Lake Towada. A tour bus company was contacted to provide the services. That bus ride proved to be life changing, as Dennis met a beautiful tour guide, Kyoko Iwaki. She would become his wife for the next 65 years. Dennis spent

21 years in the US Army stationed in multiple locations and serving in the Vietnam War. He earned the rank of Master Sergeant before retiring in 1975.

After retiring from his second career at TeleVideo in 1989, Dennis and Kyoko relocated to Visalia, CA in 1990 to be closer to their children and grandchildren. In retirement, Dennis spent his time traveling with his children's families, organizing family events, raising his beloved dogs and reconnecting with old friends and extended family members.

Dennis was a very loving husband and father. He taught his children to honor and respect their elders and all those they met. He took them on camping and fishing trips, teaching them how to fix things, how to mow the lawn, make the beds, and do the household chores. He was a football and baseball coach to his two sons.

Dennis was preceded in death by his parents and siblings William, Avelina, Frank, Rosalie, Cecilio and Pete.

He is survived by his wife Kyoko; children Gilbert and wife Marilyn, Emma and husband John, David and wife Anna; grandchildren Analicia, Andrea, Melissa, John and wife Jessica, Mark and girlfriend Monique, Nathan and wife Jessilyn, great-grandchildren Angelica, Frankie, Katana, Max, Lily Bea, Tim, JD, Theo, Jocelyn, Grayson and Cassius; Great-Great-Grandson MJ Luke; Brother Tony and wife Sandy; Sister-in-Law Cha; Brother-in-Law Louie; many nieces and nephews; great nieces and nephews; and his faithful companions Ginger and Jo Jo.

Viewing will be held 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Friday, May 5th, 2023 at Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel, 127 E. Caldwell Ave., Visalia. Rosary will follow from

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Mass of Christian Burial services will be held 1:30 PM Saturday, May 6th, 2023 at Holy Family Catholic Church, 1908 N. Court St., Visalla.

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

MAY 5. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (PT)

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

Rosary

MAY 5. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

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

Mass of Christian Burial

MAY 6. 1:30 PM (PT)

Holy Family Catholic Church
1908 N. Court St.
Visalia, CA

Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Dennis Andrade Cortez*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - May 03, 2023 at 12:46 PM



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Dennis Andrade Cortez*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - May 03, 2023 at 12:05 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Dennis Andrade Cortez.*



May 06, 2023 at 02:30 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dennis Andrade Cortez.*



May 05, 2023 at 11:14 PM



“ *Even though 50 years separated our last meeting, Dennis made me feel like family. He leaves us a wonderful legacy in his beautiful family.*

Prayers for Peace and strength to see you through these tough times.

Nancy & Richard Guitard



Nancy Guitard - May 05, 2023 at 08:24 PM



“ *Nancy & Richard Guitard purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Dennis Andrade Cortez.*



Nancy & Richard Guitard - May 05, 2023 at 07:56 PM

TF

“ Terry Belgrave & family purchased the Beautiful i
n Blue for the family of Dennis Andrade Cortez.



Terry Belgrave & family - May 05, 2023 at 12:24 PM

TB

“ DEAR Mrs. Cortez, Gilbert, Emma and David,

Our families go way back to early 70s in Fort Clayton; so, we were shocked and deeply saddened to hear that Mr. Cortez passed away. Thinking of you with heartfelt condolences and we pray that the good Lord, family and close friends' comforts and sees you through this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Terry Belgrave and family

TERRY BELGRAVE - May 05, 2023 at 11:51 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for
the family of Dennis Andrade Cortez.



May 04, 2023 at 08:23 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket* was purchased for the family of Dennis Andrade Cortez.



May 03, 2023 at 11:38 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray* was purchased for the family of Dennis Andrade Cortez.



May 03, 2023 at 05:48 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Dennis Andrade Cortez.



May 02, 2023 at 01:58 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Dennis Andrade Cortez.



April 28, 2023 at 10:53 PM

AH

“ We are sorry for your loss. I always enjoyed visiting with Mr. Cortez while at Gilbert and Marilyn's home. Love, The Haury Family

Angela Haury - April 26, 2023 at 06:23 PM

BB

“ I remember working with Gilbert at his parents house and hearing his mom call him gilby...and his dad chuckled.

Brian brewer - April 25, 2023 at 08:33 PM



“ Our last Fourth of July with grandpa. He always hosted us for swimming and lots and lots of food.



Andrea Camarena - April 24, 2023 at 10:15 PM