



## Dennis Wayne Thornbury

August 31, 1944 - August 12, 2018

Dennis Wayne Thornbury was born August 31, 1944 to Paul and Mary Thornbury in Van Nuys, California. Soon after, the family moved to Visalia, where Dennis lived his entire life. He was a graduate of Mt. Whitney High School and College of the Sequoias. He graduated from 4-C's College in San Francisco with a degree in Computer Science and was employed by Tulare County until his retirement.

Dennis was a long time member of the Visalia Sportsmen's Association, where he served many years as President. For more than 30 years he organized and led championship matches at the Visalia range. His name is inscribed in the National Benchrest Shooters Association [NBRSA] record book, as well as having served a term as NBRSA president. A highly decorated sharpshooter, he has over time held ten world records. Most recently he won at the 2018 Cactus Classic event held in Phoenix, Arizona. A car enthusiast and lover of Corvettes, Dennis was a member of the local Corvette Club.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Mary Thornbury, and survived by his only daughter, Tammy Denchfield and her husband Chuck, Aunt Marilyn Swanson and Uncle Tom Swanson, and many cousins.

Dennis passed away in Visalia, California on Sunday, August 12, 2018. A

graveside service will be held August 21, 2018 at 11:00 am at Visalia Cemetery. Funeral arrangements are being made by Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to your local feline rescue organization or animal shelter. Condolences can be made to [www.salseranddillard.com](http://www.salseranddillard.com)

# Previous Events

## Graveside

AUG **21**. 11:00 AM (PT)

Visalia District Cemetery  
1300 W Goshen Ave  
Visalia, CA 93291

# Tribute Wall

GP

“ I always looked forward to benchrest shooting at the Visalia range because Dennis made it such an enjoyable experience. He was extremely friendly and very helpful to me on many occasions. I will miss him very much.

*George Pizzillo*

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**George Pizzillo** - August 20, 2018 at 10:51 PM

EF

“ Ed Aulestia & Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Dennis Wayne Thornbury.



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**Ed Aulestia & Family** - August 19, 2018 at 01:30 PM

EA

“ I just met Dennis three years ago, and from the first day I knew he was kind, friendly patient and a great friend, we enjoyed talking about cars, but when it came to BR, I learned quite a bit from him. Dennis, you left too soon, you'll be missed. RIP.

*Ed Aulestia.*

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**ED Aulestia** - August 19, 2018 at 01:19 PM

MA

“ When I entered into the life of Dennis on March 3, 2008 (yes, I remember the exact moment) I knew NOTHING about NASCAR or Benchrest. Dennis very patiently answered all of my questions. Some questions I asked more than once. It somewhat surprised my friends when I was always talking about subjects I had never mentioned before. Thank you, Dennis, for bringing new interests into my life. One year I made a quilt for him, to keep him warm on the foggy Visalia nights.



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**Marsha** - August 18, 2018 at 12:01 PM

KG

“ When Dennis drove from Visalia to Palo Alto to attend Mel Iwatsubo's fathers funeral service, that told me what kind of man he was. Rest in peace, you deserve a place there. Krag Gross

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**Krag Gross** - August 16, 2018 at 01:35 PM

PK

“ Echoing Bill & Gary's comments below, I too met Dennis through precision benchrest shooting. The man was a lion of the sport, but more importantly was wonderful person to know. Always kind, level-headed and smiling, he welcomed me and many other shooters once a month at the VSA range. I recently moved back to the east coast with my family, and will carry my fond memories of Dennis forever. I'm so very sad that he has left us, but I assure you he is sitting in heaven right now enjoying the view.

*Pete Kitrinos*



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**Pete Kitrinos** - August 16, 2018 at 05:30 AM

VB

*Cousin Dennis will be miss so very much by so many. RIP Cousin 😭*

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**Vanessa Brown** - August 16, 2018 at 09:43 AM

GO

“ It’s very sad to write about someone you know your going to miss very much. I can say without hesitation Dennis was one of nicest guys I’ve had the pleasure to become friends with. He has helped me in so many ways; I hope that he knows I am grateful. We formed our friendship over 25 years ago; founded in our love of competition shooting. I moved to Arizona from Pa. Upon my first visit to the Visalia Benchrest match; that Dennis ran, he invited me to stay at his house when I came to the matches. At times I wasn’t the only one staying there, he had as many as 4 guys at his house for the weekend. I’ve stayed at Dennis’s house over 100 weekends and it was fun every time. That’s one small sample of Dennis’s kindness.

*Dennis I’m going to miss you. You were taken way too soon. RIP my friend.*

Gary Ocock

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**Gary Ocock** - August 15, 2018 at 09:21 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Dennis Wayne Thornbury.



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August 15, 2018 at 07:36 PM

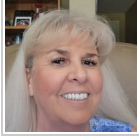
CC

“ Dennis welcomed us into the VSA as friends he had not meet yet. We will miss him!  
Jean & Chuck Calvert



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**Chuck Calvert** - August 15, 2018 at 01:46 PM

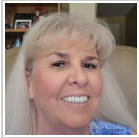


“ *Vanessa Brown purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Dennis Wayne Thornbury.*



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**Vanessa Brown** - August 14, 2018 at 02:21 PM



“ *It's so hard to believe your in heaven now, I'm so blessed we got to visit with you these past few times I was up in visalia. I'm so honored to have called you my cousin, those dolls you gave me I'll cherish for the rest of my life. You'll be miss by so many. Love you forever, RIP Cousin Dennis*

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**Vanessa Brown** - August 14, 2018 at 02:12 PM



“ *Audrey and Rodney Brown purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Dennis Wayne Thornbury.*



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**Audrey and Rodney Brown** - August 14, 2018 at 12:11 AM



“ *Always friendly, smiling and welcoming to all even when problems arose. Not many of us would be willing to devote our entire life to the sport of benchrest as he did. I appreciate the time spent with him as a friend and competitor and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Rest in peace Dennis -----Bill Summers*

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**Bill Summers** - August 13, 2018 at 10:46 PM

SP

*Rest in Peace Dennis. You were California benchrest. Thanks for all the years managing the NBRSA and IBS at VSA.*  
*Stephen Perry*

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**Stephen Perry** - August 19, 2018 at 01:48 PM