



## Donald Michael Serpa

September 17, 1934 - July 3, 2023

I was born September 17, 1934, in our old farmhouse, north of Visalia. My parents were Tony Serpa Jr. and Ethel Serpa. In my childhood, the love of my life was my grandmother, Mary Serpa I attended Elbow Creek Elementary School through the eighth grade, and graduated from Mt. Whitney High School in 1952. My brother, Rolland, cousins, Geraldine Lopes, Arnold Rocha and I had wonderful times growing up on the Farm. I left this world to be with my Lord, July 3, 2023.

At age 15, my father was able to find a job for me in Lash's Market as a meat cutter trainee. From there I went to Parish's Market (which is now Rosa's Italian Restaurant). I worked at Young's Market on Mooney Blvd, and from there I helped to open the first Best Buy Market on Houston Avenue. I became the manager of the meat department and when Max Norton and partners opened the Best Buy Market on Giddings, I was the meat department manager as well. Leonard Whiney opened the Food 4 Less markets and purchased Best Buy Market. I became the meat buyer/supervisor for that chain.

I retired from the meat industry in October of 1999. In June of 2000, I worked for the Frank Serpa Automotive Group, until retiring for good in 2001.

In 1954, I married Janice Ezell and in 1955, we had beautiful twin daughters. Unfortunately, in 1959 my marriage was ended.

I was interested in race car activities and that became my ambition and hobby for many years. I won several trophy's and my world centered around racing and fast cars.

In 1969 I met the love of my life, Carol. She became the partner that I needed in my life. We were married in 1970 and spent 53 wonderful years together. Carol was responsible for my return to the church and rekindling my Catholic faith and God. I was an usher at St. Mary's Catholic church for many years until my health began to fail.

Carol and I went on great vacations and trips. Florida, Missouri, Lake Tahoe, Las Vegas, and the coast. We attended Portuguese Festas and celebrity concerts, but our passion was to attend dances and we both loved to dance.

I have been an animal lover for most of my life. Each one gave me so much pleasure in each of their lifetimes. I leave behind my new baby Kiki, an Australian Sheppard red tri.

I want to thank my devoted caregivers, Patricia Guzman, Lucy Cruz and Justin Velasquez along with my wonderful wife Carol for the loving care and attention given to me the final days of my life.

I was preceded in death by my parents, brother Rollie Serpa, daughter Stacie Velasquez, ex-wife Janice Ezell and sister-in-law Shirley Taylor.

I am survived by my wife, Carol, twin daughters, Donna (Rick) West, Debbie (Tom) Bryan, Grandchildren, Jason Bryan, Josh (Erin) Bryan, Jared (Ashley) Jones, Jackie (Shannon) Siegenthaler and Justin (Tiffany) Velasquez. Great grandchildren, Aiden and Madden Bryan, Greyson Bryan, Goldie and Geri Siegenthaler, Raymond and Abbie Jones and Vincent and Aubrey Velasquez.

I have entrusted my services to Steve Dillard of Salser and Dillard Funeral Chapel.

The Rosary will be prayed Monday, July 17, 2023 at 6pm at Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel, 127 E. Caldwell Ave., Visalia, CA. Mass will be celebrated Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at 10:30am at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Burial will follow at the Visalia District Cemetery.

Condolences may be sent to Salser and Dillard and memorial gifts to the donors favorite charity.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 17. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

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

## Rosary

JUL 17. 6:00 PM (PT)

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

## Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 18. 10:30 AM (PT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church  
608 N. Church Street  
Visalia, CA 93291

## Graveside

JUL 18. 12:00 PM (PT)

Visalia District Cemetery  
1300 W Goshen Ave  
Visalia, CA 93291

# Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Donald Michael Serpa*



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**Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel** - July 14, 2023 at 04:44 PM

JM

“ *Janalea and Steve Miller purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Donald Michael Serpa.*



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**Janalea and Steve Miller** - July 16, 2023 at 12:37 AM

JM

“ *Janalea and Steve Miller planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Michael Serpa.*

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**Janalea and Steve Miller** - July 16, 2023 at 12:37 AM

CK

“ *Thank you for taking us in and letting us stay at your house. You are two wonderful people. Love you.*

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**Chantelle King** - July 11, 2023 at 06:12 PM

CK

“ Chantelle King sent a virtual gift in memory of Donald Serpa



Chantelle King - July 11, 2023 at 06:08 PM

PG

“ Patricia Guzman lit a candle in memory of Donald Serpa



Patricia Guzman - July 10, 2023 at 08:17 PM

TC

“ Tedi Cocagne lit a candle in memory of Donald Serpa



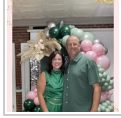
Tedi Cocagne - July 07, 2023 at 04:45 PM



“ Karen Wallen lit a candle in memory of Donald Serpa



Karen Wallen - July 05, 2023 at 11:46 PM



*Debbie and Donna, we are so sorry for your loss. We all know how much your dad adored the two of you. He loves you guys more than any words could describe! Love you guys big!!! Josh, Erin, Aiden, and Madden.*

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**Erin Bryan** - July 06, 2023 at 11:18 PM