



Doug Carl Mendonca

October 4, 1960 - June 5, 2026

Douglas Carl Mendonca, 65, of Tulare, California, returned to Heaven on Friday, June 5, 2026, surrounded by his loving parents.

Douglas, affectionately known as "Dougie," was born on October 4, 1960, in Visalia, California, the firstborn son of Carl and Rosemary Mendonca. From the moment he entered the world, Dougie brought joy to those around him. He spent his entire life on the family ranch outside of Tulare, a place he loved deeply and proudly called home.

Dougie's childhood was filled with adventure, laughter, and countless hours spent outdoors with his two younger brothers and many cousins. He enjoyed being active and independent, whether driving his Odyssey, riding his four-wheeler, mowing lawns, or, in later years, cruising around the ranch in his beloved Gator. It was a common sight to see Dougie making his rounds, enjoying the freedom and familiarity of ranch life.

As a teenager, Dougie became an honorary Mt. Whitney Pioneer while faithfully attending his brothers Chris and Eddie's sporting events. He was one of the school's most devoted supporters and could often be found at football practices, on the sidelines during games, or cheering enthusiastically from the stands. His love for Mt. Whitney athletics was unmatched, and he amazed many with his ability to recall players' names, jersey numbers, and game

details years after the games had ended.

When his brother Chris went on to play college football, Dougie became a devoted University of Utah fan, traveling almost every weekend to Salt Lake City to attend games and cheer on his brother.

Years later, when his nephews Tanner and Tucker became Pioneers themselves, Dougie was once again a fixture on the sidelines. He attended team dinners, supported every season, and was even known to deliver inspirational speeches before big games. He especially loved the annual Cowhide game and celebrated every Mt. Whitney victory with unmatched enthusiasm. Dougie proudly followed Tanner and Tucker throughout their athletic careers—from Little League and middle school sports to Mt. Whitney High School, College of the Sequoias, and Sacramento State baseball. Coaches, players, parents, and community members all knew and loved Dougie. He was more than a fan; he was a loyal supporter, an encourager, and part of the team.

Dougie was also a lifelong and devoted fan of the Los Angeles Dodgers and Los Angeles Rams. His closet overflowed with team apparel, memorabilia, and an impressive collection of hats. He rarely missed a game and celebrated every victory as if he were part of the team himself. His passion for sports brought him endless enjoyment and provided countless opportunities to connect with family and friends. One of his fondest sports memories was attending several Los Angeles Rams preseason games in the late 1980s, when his brother, Chris, was a member of the team. These experiences made his connection to the Rams even more special and gave him stories he cherished for years.

Dougie attended Liberty Elementary School and Maple Melody School before spending more than 30 years as a valued participant at the Creative Center in

Visalia. There, he formed lifelong friendships and enthusiastically participated in many programs and activities. A gifted artist, Dougie enjoyed painting and creating sculptures, many of which were displayed in local restaurants and businesses throughout Visalia. He was also a talented performer who delighted audiences as a member of the Creative Center Blues Brothers and later entertained crowds with his portrayal of country music star Garth Brooks at community events.

An accomplished Special Olympics athlete, Dougie participated in the softball throw and proudly earned numerous medals over the years. He approached every competition with determination, enthusiasm, and a smile that inspired everyone around him. He later continued his love of sports as a member of the Visalia Miracle softball league.

Above all, Dougie will be remembered for the happiness he brought to everyone who knew him. He taught those around him the value of unconditional love, perseverance, and finding joy in life's simple pleasures. His gentle nature, infectious smile, and unwavering enthusiasm left a lasting impression on all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Dougie's life was a blessing, his memory a treasure, and he will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and community.

He is survived by his loving parents, Carl and Rosie Mendonca; his brothers, Eddie Mendonca and Chris Mendonca (Lori); his beloved nephews, Tanner Mendonca (Brandee) and Tucker Mendonca; and his treasured great-nephew, Christopher Mendonca. He is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and a lifetime of cherished friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Visalia on

Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., with a reception to follow at Country M Ranch.

Though his earthly journey has ended, the love he shared and the memories he created will live on forever in the hearts of those who loved him.

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

Upcoming Events

Mass of Christian Burial

JUN 23. 10:00 AM (PT)

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