



Henry Cortez Vargas

April 26, 1953 - June 8, 2025

Henry C. Vargas—a devoted husband, loving father and papa, cherished brother, and dear friend to so many. Born on April 26, 1953, in Tulare, California, Henry's life was rooted in family, hard work, and a love for the simple joys that made life meaningful.

Henry was a man of strong character, quiet wisdom, and unwavering love. He was the heart of his family, a steady presence who could always be counted on. He is survived by his beloved wife Mary Vargas, his sons Michael and Aaron, his daughter-in-law Jessica, and his treasured grandchildren Jady, Kambrya, Bryson, and Adalyn, who were truly the light of his life. His siblings—Joe Vargas, Pete Vargas, Cruz Vargas, Margie Vargas, and Carmen Smith—will carry forward his memory with love. We also remember and honor those who went before him: his parents, Joe and Nina Vargas, and his siblings Rachel Melendez, Frank Vargas, and John Vargas.

Though many knew Henry through his years of work at Dairyman's Creamery, he will be remembered best by the community as the proud owner of Papa Joe's Place, a Mexican restaurant in Tulare where laughter, good food, and hospitality were always on the menu. It was more than a business—it was a gathering place, a reflection of Henry's generous spirit.

Outside of work, Henry had a deep love for classic cars, vintage bicycles and trailers, and model building—planes, cars, you name it. His fascination with

aviation, especially the B17 bomber, spoke to his appreciation for craftsmanship and history. He also enjoyed fishing, especially on the days when Mary didn't have a project lined up for him-though he was always willing to lend a hand when she did.

But more than anything, Henry found joy in being with his grandkids. Whether it was cheering at their events, sharing stories, or simply being present, he made memories with them that will last a lifetime.

Henry didn't need to be loud to be heard. He didn't need to take the spotlight to make a lasting impression. His strength was in his kindness, his humor, his work ethic, and his deep love for his family. He showed us how to live fully, love deeply, and leave behind a legacy of warmth and integrity.

Though our hearts are heavy, we take comfort in knowing that Henry's love lives on-in the family he built, the friendships he nurtured, and the countless lives he touched. He may no longer be with us in body, but he will always be with us in spirit.

Memorial services will be held 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Friday, June 27th, 2025 at Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel, 127 E. Caldwell Ave., Visalia. We invite all who knew and loved Henry to join us in remembering a truly remarkable man.

Rest in peace, Henry. Your love is our guiding light. You will never be forgotten.

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

Previous Events

Memorial

JUN 27. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Henry Cortez Vargas*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - June 26, 2025 at 04:01 PM

RV

“ *Paul and Rita Villarreal, send our deepest condolences. Henry was a good friend for many years. May he rest in peace. Our prayers to Mary and family.*



Rita Villarreal - June 27, 2025 at 01:17 PM

TY

“ *The family of Raymond Yniguez purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Henry Cortez Vargas.*



The family of Raymond Yniguez - June 22, 2025 at 11:04 PM

TY

“ *The family of Raymond Yniguez planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Henry Cortez Vargas.*

The family of Raymond Yniguez - June 22, 2025 at 11:04 PM

BC

“ *Bebe (Elizabeth) Caldas lit a candle in memory of Henry Vargas*



Bebe (Elizabeth) Caldas - June 21, 2025 at 04:35 PM

AG

*My sincerest condolences to the Vargas Family. You're in my prayers during this time of losing a loved one.
With deepest sympathy,
Antonia (Alviso) Gomez*

Antonia Gomez - June 22, 2025 at 10:02 PM