



John David Lawrence

May 21, 1924 - May 22, 2014

John D. Lawrence passed away on May 22, 2014 in Visalia, CA, the day after celebrating his 90th birthday. John was born on his parents' dairy south of Corcoran, CA to John and Carolina Lawrence, and in his own words "grew up during the heyday of Charles Lindbergh, Amelia Earhart, Howard Hughes, Billy Mitchell and Wrong-Way Corrigan and became forever fascinated with anything that flew.....I didn't fly during the war but in 1946 I bored a lot of holes in our local skies, culminating in 2000 when with Parkinson's disease and such I had to hang it up". John was the third of 6 children, and his stories of growing up on the ranch were of hard work since age 4 mixed with having a lot of fun with his sisters. John graduated Corcoran High School in 1941, attended Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, and was a lifetime dairyman and farmer south of Corcoran.

On May 30, 1950 he married Lena Espinola of Hanford, and together they had 5 children. In his retirement, John moved with Lena to Oaks Estate mobile home community in Tulare to start the next chapter of their lives which was filled with potlucks, Bunko, and the Central Valley Parkinson's Support Group. In addition, John used his trilingual skills in English, Spanish and Portuguese to volunteer for 4 years at the Tulare Adult School to teach English as a second language. John had a keen sense of humor and loved telling a good joke.

John was predeceased by his wife Lena of 61 years, infant sister Eva Lawrence, sister Carrie Mehaffey, daughter Charmaine Ferreira and daughter-

in-law Karen Lawrence. John is survived by his sisters Mary Brause of Los Osos, Eva Lloyd of Cypress and Rosie Nearn of Visalia, 2 sons David of Visalia and John (wife Vickie) of Visalia, daughters Danielle (husband Alex Stagner) of Menlo Park and Jeannine (husband Scott Angell) of Los Altos, many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. The family would like to thank the staff at Tulare Nursing and Rehabilitation and Westgate Gardens for their kind and loving care. Donations in John's memory can be made to the UCLA Foundation/PEG Study, and sent to the Central Valley Parkinson's Support Group at P.O. Box 7314, Visalia, CA 93290. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, June 19 at the Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel, 127 E. Caldwell Ave, Visalia, CA, with a reception to follow at Visalia Community Church of Christ, 3838 South Court Street.

Previous Events

Service

JUN **19**. 11:00 AM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel
127 E. Caldwell Ave
Visalia, CA 93277
(559) 635-1144
info@salseranddillard.com
<https://www.salseranddillard.com>

Tribute Wall

MC

“ *Edited, please delete the previous post.*

*To all who are affected by Johnnies passing, There is much I could say about both Johnny & Lena as Jane & I were privileged to be their neighbor & friends for several years in Oaks Estates. We appreciated their wit and wisdom along with their generosity. It saddens me that I am not well enough to attend the service with Jane due to my heart issues of which thankfully I am improving. Johnnie & I had many talks about many subjects a large part of which concerned his Parkinsons as my father who passed in 1999 had it as well. Since I wear many hats I was able to help them with many of lifes smaller issues, the main one being computers of which I was glad to do without charge but Lena would always make me take some money for my time, and when they moved to Visalia they even gave me their desktop and monitor which Jane still uses today. Well, I could go on for quite awhile about the niceties Johnny gave to all he came in contact with but I'll end it here by saying that Jane & I loved him and his bride Lena and will ever be grateful for the times we shared with them looking forward to a heavenly reunion. Grace, peace and love to his family and friends,
Mike and Jane Casey*

Mike Casey - June 19, 2014 at 10:30 AM

MF

“ Dear Family of Johnny and Lena - Oh, how I loved your parents. So did Dr. D. I was so remiss in not making it over to Tulare to see your dad. He was a top-notch person, and so was your mother. Parkinson's is such a terrible disease... your dad and my husband, Dr. D., had so much in common - their love of flying... the dairy industry... and ultimately, their Parkinson's. Both Bob and I loved your folks. They were two of our favorite people. I treasure the ceramic tulips your dad brought back from The Sequoias... and the birthday cake he shared in our driveway... I hurt, and I ache for your pain. Much love, Mary Dickerson Frantz

Mary Frantz - May 28, 2014 at 01:09 PM

MF

Dear Family - I am so sorry I cannot come to your dad's service. I will be in Michigan and Ohio. It breaks my heart not to be there. Sincerely, Mary Frantz

Mary Dickerson Frantz - May 29, 2014 at 11:08 PM