



## Joseph Francis Berry

March 26, 1945 - April 20, 2025

Joseph Francis Berry, also known as "Big Joe", passed away peacefully in his sleep at 80 years old on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025. He was born March 26, 1945, in Mojave, CA to Joseph and Ellen Berry. Big Joe was an avid cattleman, starting his career in the ranching and dairy industry at the young age of 15 years old as just your ordinary cow clipper and colt breaker. He was mentored by some of the best analyzers in the cattle industry which led him to creating his legendary, world renowned Bull Stud business, Central Valley Dairy Breeders. Not only was Big Joe a cattleman, he was a true grit cowboy.

As the true cowboy that he was, Big Joe moseyed on into the Crow's Nest to play a hand of cards and that is where he met his match and the love of his life, his to-be future wife, Nancy Berry. They had a brief courtship and as always Big Joe knew what he wanted and that was to be with his best friend for the rest of his life. Shortly after being married, they started to expand on their family having three children together, but five in total; Kimberly Brosseau, Carol DeArman, Sheri Cogburn, Joseph Berry and Ramsey Berry.

While Big Joe prided himself on his dairy business, he decided he wanted to be the best at everything. He got into the American Paint Horse business and so began the Lazy JN Ranch. Joe, implementing his cattle breeding skills in the horse business, he quickly rose to the top of the industry. Showing halter horses across the United States became one of Big Joe's most cherished

hobbies to do with his family right by his side. At the height of Lazy JN Ranches career, Big Joe dominated the nation's Paint Horse scene- owning, breeding and showing more paint horses than anyone else in the country.

As if that wasn't enough, Big Joe and Nancy got into the commercial real estate business and owned several motels in Pismo Beach, CA and many properties here in Visalia. This was just one of the many endeavors Joe had set out to do in his lifetime and he accomplished everything he set his mind to. The work ethic and perseverance were unmatched as a single sole but was even stronger when he had his wife by his side.

Big Joe wasn't just a hardworking man, but a provider for his family. He showed his love not only through grand gestures, but through quiet, unwavering devotion. He worked tirelessly to provide for his family, often sacrificing himself to ensure they never went without.

Joe was a firm believer in Christ, and we know that he is renewed and dancing with the Lord. He was met at the Heavenly gates by his wife, Nancy Berry, daughter, Sheri Cogburn, son, Joseph Berry, grandson's, Colt Berry and Mark Cogburn, parents Joseph and Ellen Berry, sister, Lynne, as well as his brother Pat. Big Joe is survived by his son, Ramsey Berry, daughters Kimberly Brosseau and Carol DeArman, granddaughter's; Kelsey, Chloe, Karley, Sara, Lauren, Andrea and Megan, grandson's; Braden, Matthew, Joel and Joseph and his great grandchildren; Slater, Evangeline, Enoch, Aria and Beau.

Visitation will be held 10 AM - 11 AM Tuesday, May 6th, 2025 at Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel, 127 E. Caldwell Ave., Visalia. Funeral services will bfollow at 11 AM. Graveside services will be held 1 PM Tuesday, May 6th, 2025 at Visalia District Cemetery, 1300 W Goshen Ave, Visalia.

Services have been entrusted to Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel. Memorial

Tributes and condolences may be offered by logging onto [www.salseranddillard.com](http://www.salseranddillard.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 6. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

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

## Funeral

MAY 6. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PT)

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

## Graveside

MAY 6. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (PT)

Visalia District Cemetery  
1300 W Goshen Ave  
Visalia, CA 93291

# Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Joseph Francis Berry*



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**Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel** - May 05, 2025 at 04:47 PM



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Joseph Francis Berry*



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**Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel** - May 05, 2025 at 04:46 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss!!!! He was an amazing man! One of the hardest working person I ever met!!! It truly was an honor to have met him!! Good bye Joe Berry...❤️*

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**Lorenza Nunez** - May 06, 2025 at 01:47 PM

SR

“ *Mr. Berry always made time to visit us especially when my dad was sick. I am forever grateful for the many times he brought hope to my dad while he was battling cancer. You were like a grandpa to us and will always be in our prayers! Give my dad a big hug from us* ❤️



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**Sharlean Rodriguez** - May 06, 2025 at 01:36 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Joseph Francis Berry.*

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May 04, 2025 at 10:47 PM



“ *Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph Francis Berry.*



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May 04, 2025 at 10:47 PM

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“ My memories are many they were all great ones from a very special man to many. One of my favorites was sitting in the Berries living room eating his favorite pie on Father’s Day watching the fast and furious , Mr. Joes first time to see it . Of course watching him win a world championship or his grandson and daughter win a buckles with one of his horses he loved almost as much as his family was so special to me. Working at the Berry Lazy Jn Ranch and getting to train so many great babies and putting Joes favorite Stallion Artistic Imprint on the APHA leading stallion list was so special a time for me to be a part of, I am forever grateful . I worked there twice once with Randy and once on my own . I am thankful to Mr. Joe to work with so many great horses and to breed and train and fit them . I know how happy he was every moment he spent with them it was my pleasure sir. Hug miss Nancy sherry and markie for me ! Thank you sir!

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**Ann Richards** - May 04, 2025 at 04:52 PM

KS

“ Finally he is resting at the great beach in heaven...with Nana who I know is blissfully happy... Thank you Papa for all the life lessons and amazing experiences... Oh and make sure to order lobster at every meal 🍷🍷... I love you!  
Sincerely, That Girl ❤️🙏😊

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**Kelly Stoecker** - May 03, 2025 at 05:28 PM