



## Joseph Soares Mello

January 22, 1933 - February 27, 2025

Joe S. Mello was born on January 22, 1933 to parents Joe L. Mello and Lourdes S. Mello in Visalia. He attended local schools graduating from Visalia High School in 1952.

Joe passed away on February 27th 2025, at the age of 92 in Visalia with family by his side.

Joe served in the Army during the Korean War from 1953-1955 and was stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington. He was a part of the 135th Engineer Battalion and honorably discharged as a Corporal.

Joe married Dena Garcia in June of 1961 and they spent 63 years together. Together they had two children, David Mello (Elaine) of Exeter and Margaret Perales (Richard) of Visalia.

He worked many years as an Ag Mechanic in the Visalia area, ending his career with Dinuba High School District as a Lead mechanic, retiring in 1992.

Joe is survived by his wife, children, grandchildren Brynn Perales (Carl), Johnathan Mello (Liz), Breanne Perales-Neves (George), Matthew Mello (Katie), also four great-grandchildren with one on the way. He is also survived by nieces, nephews and several cousins

Joe was predeceased by his parents, grandparents, brother Manuel Mello, sister Laura Souza and a nephew.

He loved spending time RVing, especially at Pismo Beach, and tinkering with old tractors. He was a member of the Branch 8 Antique Tractor Club and the Early Day Gas Engine Tractor Association.

Joe loved his family, cats and any sweet treats especially ice cream. He was a quiet, introspective man with a good sense of humor who will be dearly missed.

Visitation will be held 8:30 AM Thursday, March 13th, 2025 at Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel, 127 E. Caldwell Ave., Visalia. Graveside services will be held 12:00 PM Thursday, March 13th, 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

MAR 13. 8:30 AM (PT)

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

## Graveside

MAR 13. 12:00 PM (PT)

Visalia District Cemetery  
1300 W Goshen Ave  
Visalia, CA 93291

## Reception

MAR 13. 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Life Event Center  
135 E Caldwell Ave  
Visalia, CA 93277

# Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Joseph Soares Mello* ”



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**Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel** - March 11, 2025 at 01:19 PM