



## Kent James McNatt

August 23, 1945 - November 11, 2024

Kent McNatt was born in Deming, New Mexico on August 23, 1945 and died on Veterans Day, November 11, 2024, at the age of 79 in Visalia, California. Herbert and Annabelle McNatt moved their young family to Tulare before Kent started school, and he lived in Tulare and Visalia the rest of his life. He entered Tulare Western High School in 1959 as a freshman; thus, he was a member of the first four year class to graduate from the new high school in 1963. He also graduated from College of the Sequoias, and then Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo in 1968. He served honorably in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and returned to teach history at Tulare Union High School for 34 years including serving on the coaching staffs of Valley Champions in both baseball and basketball. He was honored as a great teacher by Tulare Western when in 2011 he was added to the school's Wall of Fame of distinguished alumni.

Kent loved his community and eagerly served on the Tulare City Historical Museum Board and was active in the Central Valley Vietnam Veterans. He was avidly involved in organizing Veterans Day at the high schools in Tulare. He personally recruited veterans, including famous World War II Navajo Code Talkers, to meet with Tulare students in an annual event that continues to this day. He stayed in contact with the high schools even after he retired. He was dedicated to the many students whose lives he touched in his teaching career. As he put it, teaching took caring and nurturing of each student in order for

learning to follow. Kent also enjoyed dancing and especially salsa. He formed friendships with the dancing class as well as many people in the community. He was easy to like and had a positive attitude which he expressed with his favorite word "OUTSTANDING!"

Kent is survived by his sisters, Donna Green from Medford Oregon, Myra Lord (John) from Napa California and nieces and nephews living around the country. He was preceded in death by his brother Herbert Donald McNatt Jr. who was also a Vietnam veteran.

A Celebration of Life will be held November 26, 2024 at 5:00pm at the Visalia Veterans Memorial Building, 609 W. Center Avenue in Visalia. Gifts of remembrance can be made to The Tulare City Historical Museum, 444 W. Tulare Ave. Tulare.

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

## Celebration of Life

NOV **26**. 5:00 PM (PT)

Visalia Veteran's Memorial Building  
609 W Center Ave  
Visalia, CA 93291

# Tribute Wall

CG

“ *My sincere condolences go out to Kent's family, friends and anyone mourning his passing. I'll sure miss Mr. McNatt's knuckle-crushing handshakes, the word OUTSTANDING, and will never forget the one time I fell asleep in his class and was awoken to his yard stick slamming on my desk. He was truly an amazing and memorable man, and made learning fun!*

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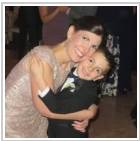
**Christopher Gridley** - November 26, 2024 at 08:47 PM

JW

“ *My deepest sympathy to Kent's family. He was a very personable and enthusiastic colleague and well-liked by his students and athletes. May he rest in peace.*  
*Judy Watry-Dlugonski*

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**Judy Watry-Dlugonski** - November 21, 2024 at 02:47 PM



“ *Mr. McNatt was an awesome history teacher. He made it fun to learn. He used to greet us with a "Top of the Morning" each class. May he rest in piece*

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**Mary Anne Scaglione** - November 17, 2024 at 09:51 PM

DJ

“ On behalf of the members of the Visalia Avenue of Flags Association and the Visalia Veterans Mural Restoration Foundation, we send our Condolences to the McNatt family, and Pray God's healing Grace flow over all who knew and cared about Kent. We thank Kent for all the help over the years, especially Memorial Day and Pearl Harbor Day commemorations.

While we will miss his presence, especially some of his stories, we know he is in a better place, and that we will join him one day when our Final Orders are written. Until then, since he touched our lives, we all carry a part of him with us, in our hearts and in our memories. We Remember.

American Legion Visalia Post 18 Chaplain / Avenue of Flags Adjutant sends.

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**Donald Johnson** - November 16, 2024 at 08:49 PM

 Rod Huddleston

Mr. McNatt was one of my basketball coaches when I was at Tulare Union in the 1970's. He's was just a great guy and coach and it is hard to hear that he has passed on. Coaching is one place where you can add real value to those that you touch and he was smart and kind. We gave him our best not just because he expected it, and we did it not just for ourselves, we did it for him. Godspeed Mr. McNatt. You will be missed.

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**Rod Huddleston** - November 18, 2024 at 06:26 PM

YH

Kent was friend from the local dance community. He was always fun to dance with, gracious with his words and always a gentleman. We will miss you.

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**Yvette Haworth** - November 22, 2024 at 05:05 PM