



Lawrence Dale Mehrten

June 27, 1934 - February 10, 2026

Lawrence "Dale" Mehrten passed away peacefully on February 10, 2026, at the age of 91, leaving behind a legacy of strength, devotion, and unwavering love for his family. Now reunited with his beloved wife, Joy Ann Mehrten, the two who built a lifetime together are side by side once more.

Born on June 27, 1934, Dale was a man defined by commitment - to his wife, his family, his work, and his faith.

For 66 years, he shared a deep and enduring marriage with Joy. Together they built a life rooted in partnership, resilience, and shared purpose. Their bond was steady and faithful, a true example of lifelong love.

For 46 years, Dale co-owned and operated Kaweah Marina alongside Joy. Through early mornings, long days, and countless seasons, he poured his energy into the marina and into the community it served. It became not only a business but a gathering place filled with memories. Working side by side with his family - including all three daughters at one time - brought him great pride. He believed deeply in the value of hard work and led by example every day.

Dale was a proud father to Jeanne Howard (Brad), Laurie Lawson (Rob), and Julie Dragt (Ben). His family was his greatest accomplishment. He treasured his eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren, celebrating their

milestones and taking joy in the life and laughter they brought to him.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Joy Ann Mehrten; his parents, David and Lavina Mehrten; his two brothers, Ralph Mehrten and Gordon Mehrten; his two sisters, Bernice Henderson (Don) and Mildred Dawson (Frankie); his great-granddaughter, Rylee Kate Bonnema; and his brothers-in-law, John Puder, Joe West, and David Odom.

A devoted member of Christ Lutheran Church, Dale's faith was steady and personal. He lived with integrity, humility, and quiet strength. Those who knew him will remember his dependable nature, his firm handshake, and the calm assurance he brought into any room.

Services will be held on March 6th.

A graveside service will take place at Smith Mountain Cemetery in Dinuba at 9:30 AM.

Following this, a Celebration of Life Service will be held at Christ Lutheran Church in Visalia at 11:00 AM, with a luncheon to follow.

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

Previous Events

Graveside

MAR 6. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (PT)

Smith Mountain Cemetery
42088 Rd. 100
Dinuba, CA 93618

Funeral

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

Christ Lutheran Church
3830 W Tulare Ave
Visalia, CA 93277

Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Lawrence Dale Mehrten*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - March 02 at 03:52 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Lawrence Dale Mehrten.

February 26 at 08:17 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Lawrence Dale Mehrten.*



February 26 at 08:17 PM

MD

“ Dale and his precious grapes his pride and his Joy was Joy his wife. There were some good many trips to check on the grapes/watering in hot summer months when I cared for you guys! I got to have as many grapes as I could eat when they were ready they were wonderful Thank you both Bless both of you it was a pleasure knowing you rest easy I hope you are dancing together for ever at an awesome Marina in heaven. Thinking of you guys and family miss you both love Melody Davis



Melody Davis - February 26 at 02:31 PM