



Lionel Thomas Fitzgerald, Sr

October 9, 1938 - June 3, 2022

We honor the life of Lionel Thomas Fitzgerald, infamously known as "Tom," who passed away peacefully on June 3rd, 2022 at the age of 83.

Tom was born in Visalia, CA to Raymond Thomas and Anne Lorene Fitzgerald. After attending Mount Whitney High School, Tom joined the Navy. When he returned, he became a painters apprentice at his father's company. He would later go on to start his own businesses, Tom Fitzgerald Painting & Decorating and Exeter Feed Bag.

Tom married his high school sweetheart, Anita Louise Houston, and together they raised six children in Visalia and Exeter. When Tom wasn't busy with his business, he could be found tending to his garden, playing with his many animals or musing over his antique cars. He always had a dog by his side, cats running around, a beer in his hand, and singing a tune, even if the lyrics weren't quite right.

He was most notably known for his prolific storytelling, beautiful vegetable garden, sense of humor and of course, his chili beans. He was an artist, antique dealer, farmer, hunter, fisherman and entrepreneur. He loved his family, God, old westerns, music, and of course dancing. There wasn't a person he met that he didn't talk to and make a friend for life.

Tom is preceded in death by his parents, his wife Anita, his brother Michael Fitzgerald, his daughter Rhonda Venya and his son Tommy Fitzgerald. He is survived by his partner Jean Childress, daughters, Shelley Carroll, Ordonna Forlin and husband Tom Forlin, daughter-in-law Jill Fitzgerald; his sisters Jerry Fichter, Juanita George, Mary Litzsinger and his brother Andy Fitzgerald; his grandchildren Michael Fitzgerald, Tyler Zelenka, Rena Van Meter, Darren Carroll, Julie Gillis, Nick Scofield, Tyler and Connor Venya, Kayla and Amanda Forlin and his many great grandchildren which he loved and adored.

Services will be held on July 15th at Visalia Cemetery at 9:30am, followed by a Celebration of Life at Countryside Free Will Baptist Church 12351 Ave. 340 Visalia, Ca.

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

JUL 15. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (PT)

Visalia District Cemetery
1300 W Goshen Ave
Visalia, CA 93291

Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Lionel Thomas Fitzgerald, Sr*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - July 11, 2022 at 12:05 PM