



Nicholas E Martinez

December 19, 1943 - February 4, 2026

Nicholas "Nick" Espinosa Martinez, age 82, passed away peacefully on February 4, 2026, in Visalia, California.

Nick was born on December 19, 1943, in Beeville, Texas to Nicolas Martinez and Rosa Espinosa Martinez. His life was marked by service, dedication, and deep love for his family and community. At the age of 22, he answered the call to serve his country by joining the United States Navy from 1966 to 1970, stationed in Lemoore. While in action off the coast of Vietnam he was aboard the USS Ranger aircraft carrier, which he served with honor and commitment.

Immediately following his military service, at age 26, Nick began a distinguished career in law enforcement—a vocation that would span more than three decades. Over the course of 33 years, he worked with Kings County Sheriff, Exeter Police Department, Tulare County Sheriff Office, where he spent 23 years of his duty and steadily rose through the ranks, he was a Lieutenant at College of the Sequoias and was head of the Police Academy. Ultimately, he retired as Chief of Police at College of the Sequoias Police Department. His leadership left a lasting impression and legacy on those who worked alongside him and those he served.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Nick was a devoted family man. He leaves behind his loving wife, Sally; three adult children, Nick Jr. (Kate),

Cheri, and Geoffrey (Natasha); four adult stepchildren-Tony, Vanessa (Tommy), Marc, and Dezi (Briana); fifteen grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. His guidance and protective nature were deeply felt by all who knew him.

Beyond his professional life, Nick was an avid golfer who enjoyed time on the course with his wife, Sally and friends. He also found spiritual fulfillment worshipping at Calvary Visalia alongside his wife, daughter Vanessa, son-in-law Tommy, and grandson Daniel.

A Celebration of Life will be held on February 28, 2026, at 11:00 AM at Calvary Visalia, 11720 Ave 264, Visalia, Ca.

Nick will be remembered as a devoted husband and a source of strength for his family. His legacy lives on through both his personal devotion and professional contributions. May his memory bring comfort to those who knew him.

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

Previous Events

Memorial

FEB **28**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PT)

Calvary Chapel Visalia
11720 Ave. 264
Visalia, CA 93277

Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Nicholas E Martinez*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - February 24 at 05:02 PM

MP

“ *Manny & Megan Peralta purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Nicholas E Martinez.*



Manny & Megan Peralta - February 27 at 04:49 PM

LA

“ *Love, Yvette and Adrian Arias purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Nicholas E Martinez.*



Love, Yvette and Adrian Arias - February 25 at 05:42 PM

LA

“ *Love, Yvette and Adrian Arias planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nicholas E Martinez.*

Love, Yvette and Adrian Arias - February 25 at 05:42 PM

AZ

“ Alma, Kyle, The Lees, Tin & Z purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Nicholas E Martinez.



Alma, Kyle, The Lees, Tin & Z - February 21 at 04:16 PM

LO

“ I worked with Nick at the Kings County Sheriff's Office. He was an outstanding officer. Prayers for his family.

Larry Orth - February 21 at 04:10 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Nicholas E Martinez.



February 19 at 01:36 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Nicholas E Martinez.

February 19 at 01:36 PM