



Rachel Perry Caggiano

January 24, 1935 - February 10, 2026

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our loved one, Rachel Perry Caggiano on February 10, 2026. Rachel was 91 years young, and passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by family.

Rachel was a lifelong resident of Visalia, and a graduate of Mt Whitney High School, class of 1952. She graduated from The Franklin College of Nursing in San Francisco in 1957, and began working at Kaweah Delta Hospital in Visalia that same year. She was promoted to Hospital Night Supervisor shortly thereafter and remained in that position for twenty years.

Rachel returned to school to earn her Bachelors Degree at the University of Dominguez Hills in 1988. She accepted the position of Patient Care Manager (Two North) in 1977 in order to spend more time with her children. Rachel was awarded Patient Care Manager of the Year in 1986, and her unit earned the internal recognition award for "Best Run Floor" five years in a row.

Rachel's career in Nursing at Kaweah Delta Hospital spanned forty two years of service. She rose in the ranks to occupy the role of teacher, mentor and friend to patients and staff alike. Rachel retired from professional nursing in 1999, but kept her license and continued to volunteer for many years with local blood banks. She was always ready with nursing advice and care for any friend that needed it.

Rachel loved her children and her country. She enjoyed antiques and collectibles, the LA Rams, vacationing in Hawaii, gardening and hosting parties. Her annual Christmas parties were legendary! She was a founding member of the Santa Fe Sea Hags, and also a founding member of the "Blue Chippers" ladies investment club. Rachel was magnanimous and helped family, friends and strangers in so many incalculable ways throughout her life.

Rachel is preceded in death by her husband, Gino Caggiano, parents Edith and Neil Perry, her sisters Patricia Perry Webb, and Joan Perry Thomsen.

She is survived by her children, Gino David Caggiano and Carla Jean Caggiano (Brian McNutt) of Visalia, Nieces and Nephews: Richard Webb, Perri Thomsen Martin, Stacy Thomsen Miller, and Pamela Thompson Webb.

Rachel will be truly missed for her wonderful sense of humor, her quick wit, intelligence and incredibly big heart.

Visitation at Salser and Dillard Funeral Chapel, March 5 at 4:00 p.m., with a rosary to follow at 6:00 p.m. Mass will be held for Rachel at St. Mary's Church on Friday March 6 at 9:30 a.m. A Graveside service will follow at Visalia Cemetery at 11:00 a.m. The family will host a celebration of life starting at 12:30 p.m. at Bello Vita.

In Lieu of flowers, donations in Rachel's name made to the Three Rivers Historical Society and Museum, or the Happy Trails Riding Academy of Tulare are sincerely appreciated.

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

Previous Events

Viewing

MAR 5. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (PT)

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

Rosary

MAR 5. 6:00 PM (PT)

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

Mass of Christian Burial

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

St. Mary's Catholic Church
608 N. Church Street
Visalia, CA 93291

Graveside

MAR 6. 11:00 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 Rachel Perry Caggiano*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - March 05 at 11:22 AM

KW

Thank you for the beautiful memories. A beautiful tribute to a very special friend.

Kathy Wittman - March 05 at 04:26 PM

JM

“ *Carla and Gino David,
Your mom was always so kind to me whenever we saw each other.
So sorry you're going through this. I'm praying for you.*

Joanne M. - March 04 at 10:45 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Rachel Perry Caggiano.*



March 03 at 09:19 PM

CT

“ Rachel will be dearly missed. I always enjoyed her company, humor and investment knowledge. She was always so open and willing to help and give advice. Hope to sit with her again someday. Cheers and happy trails.

Charles Testerman - February 19 at 04:51 PM

CC

Thank-you our sweet sweet Charles! She loved that would pick her brain on investments. Your unique friendship with our Mom will always be cherished. Our angel Rachel will still be looking out for us, Just in a different way.

Carla Caggiano - February 19 at 08:59 PM

KC

“ Rachel gave me my start at Kaweah as a CNA and watched me grow into an RN leader. I'm still at Kaweah and the memories of what she taught me are etched deeply within me. My morales, values and nursing ethic are the same as what she taught me as a young girl. Her legacy is forever a part of so many of us "old school" nurses and I thank you for that. You taught me to be strong while never forgetting our purpose...to take care of our patients. Rest peacefully my friend, it is well deserved.



Kathy Wittman BSN, RN, CIC - February 19 at 10:18 AM

CC

Thank-you Kathy for such sweet comments. Our mother mentored so many nurses with their careers, past and present. Kathy, I know she would be proud of you and your accomplishments. So, thanks for paying tribute to her. We appreciate it.

Carla Caggiano - February 19 at 09:07 PM

MH

Rachel was a wonderful neighbor and dear friend. She loved life and sure could make us laugh! She will be dearly missed. Rest in peace our sweet friend.

The Cordill Family

Maggie Hickman - February 22 at 12:34 PM

CC

Thank you Maggie.....All of you held a special place in her heart !

Carla Caggiano - February 24 at 03:55 PM

JC

Rachel was my first boss as a nurses aid and later as an RN. She taught me so much and I appreciated all her support! She was the best !!!!

Jennifer cawley - February 25 at 07:47 PM

CC

Thank you Jenifer, my mother took a lot of pride in her CNA's Especially ones who were pursuing a license for a registered nurse. I am sure you were one of the valued employees she spoke so highly of through the years. Thank you for your lovely comments.

Carla and Gino

Carla Caggiano - March 03 at 09:51 AM

MS

Rachel was my boss when I first started at KDDH in the mid 80's. We kiddingly called her 'El Heffa' and she loved it. She was the best boss I ever had...fought for you like a tiger on one end but didn't put up with any nonsense either. She was tough but always fair and she loved her 2N (later 3N) unit. Rachel lived life her way and didn't let anything get in her way. RIP, my friend, you had a wonderful ride.

Maureen Souza - March 03 at 12:49 PM

RC

Maureen, that was a beautiful tribute to our mother, Rachel. You captured her spirit perfectly. Your words truly honored her legacy. Thank you Carla and Gino David

Rachel Caggiano - March 05 at 04:58 AM