



## Richard Tovar

June 3, 1937 - April 5, 2019

Richard I. Tovar took his last breath on this Earth and his first breath in Heaven, in the early morning of April 5, 2019, while peacefully sleeping in his home in Visalia, CA. He was 81 years young.

Richard is survived by his wife, Charlotte Tovar, his children, Richard Tovar Jr, Kevin Tovar, and Kristie Malek. He is also survived by his son in law, Dameon Malek, who he always called his third son, his Daughter in law, Diana, and his grandchildren, Jasper, Samantha, Charlotte, Kevin Jr, Max, Ben, Faith, Emma, and Stephen. He is also survived by his siblings, Vickie, Mary, Mark, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Marciano and Eloisa Tovar, his siblings, Rosie, Carmen, Anita, Albert, Jesse, and Joseph, as well as his late daughter in laws, Betty and Laura, who were very special to him.

Richard was born on June 3, 1937, in Laton, Ca, to Marciano and Eloisa Tovar. He graduated from Roosevelt High School in Fresno, CA, in 1956, where he played football and earned the name "Sugar Feet" for his quick speed. He loved playing and spoke often of his football days.

After graduating high school, he proudly served 2 years in the United States Marines, became a beautician, and later, managed a credit bureau. He met and married his wife, Charlotte, and they had 3 children, Richard, Kevin, and

Kristie. During the earlier years of his family, he worked as a milkman, a Deputy Sheriff with Kings County, and a Police Officer in Parlier. He eventually moved the family to Visalia and worked for the Department of California Transportation, (Cal Trans.) During this time, he started several construction related businesses, from landscaping, rod iron, electrical, masonry, and the longest running, was the concrete business. This led to him obtaining his California State General Contractor's License, and the opening of his favorite business of all, Tovar's Construction. He worked his full time job with Cal Trans, and worked in the evenings and the weekends on his construction businesses. He retired from building after he finished putting his last child through college, and then retired from Cal Trans in 2000.

God was good to Richard.

He had a faithful loving wife for 55 years. He had 3 children of his own who loved him dearly, a son in law who loved and served him, a sweet new daughter in law who immediately loved him, and he loved her because of that. He had 9 grandchildren who were the love of his life! Nothing made him smile like his grandchildren. He had another daughter, who although she wasn't born into our family, she became like a daughter to Richard and Charlotte. He loved Cindy Spivey like his very own. There were others my dad loved very much, and took in and raised at times in their lives . There were other friends who didn't come to live with us, but were always around for the fatherly role Richard played in their lives, and they each know who they are. Richard was very blessed with so many who loved him and many were blessed by Richard's love towards them. Yes, God was good to him.

But the best of God's goodness was yet to come. Recently, on a nice, sunny day, Richard told his daughter that when he died, he was going straight to be with the Lord, pointing towards the sky as he said it, nodding his head with a smile, and that's exactly where he is now.

God fulfilled his promise to Richard that, "Whosoever believeth in him, shall have everlasting life." He is now before the Lord. The best has come. Thanks be to God on High.

A Viewing is scheduled for Sunday, April 14, from 5-8:00 PM at Salser & Dillard, along with a memorial video. A Rosary will be held from 6-6:45 PM during the viewing.

Funeral Services will be on Monday, April 15, at St. Mary's Church, at 10:00 A.M. Graveside services will follow at the Visalia Cemetery. A lunch will follow back at the church's smaller hall following the graveside services. Friends and family are all welcome to attend.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Good News Jail & Prison Ministry, a type of ministry and a people he cherished. Donations could be made at [Goodnewsjail.org/give](http://Goodnewsjail.org/give) or by sending it to The Good News Jail & Prison Ministry, Att: David May, at 36168 Rd. 112, Visalia, CA, 93291. Please include a note, in Memory of Richard Tovar, so they can send a thank you card.

# Cemetery Details

## Visalia District Cemetery

1300 W Goshen Ave  
Visalia, CA 93291

# Previous Events

## Viewing

APR 14. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (PT)

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

## Rosary

APR 14. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

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

## Funeral Mass

APR 15. 10:00 AM (PT)

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



# Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Richard Tovar*



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**Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel** - April 05, 2019 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ *On behalf of my mother and father, the Dominguez family would like to offer its deepest condolences to Uncle Richard's Family.*

*Looking back, I will never forget the blistering Fresno afternoon he and my dad challenged my brother and I to a game of basketball. I will never forget the weekend Uncle Richard spent teaching me how to install 1000 square feet of tile after Alma and I bought our first house. I will never forget how being close to him made me feel as if I was also in the company of Grandpa Tovar. We miss you, Uncle Richard. Love, the Dominguez Family*

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**David Dominguez** - April 15, 2019 at 07:17 PM

CG


“ Dear Family..Didn't know Richard very well in High School, other than to acknowledge one another in passing, however after working on our high school reunions for over 30 Years, we became friends, as I would bug him to come the distance from Visalia to Fresno to attend. Always a Gentleman and kind, with a twinkle in his eye and a nice smile on his face. We posted on FB regularly and he would show his paintings to us, which were outstanding and he showed his pride when we complimented him....he was just "our guy"..RIP, Richard.... and God Bless your wonderful family.

Carrol Grimes - April 10, 2019 at 10:54 AM

RB

“ NOV. 1947,CALWA GRAMMAR SCHOOL WE DIDN'T BECOME FRIENDS RIGHT AWAY,BUT AS IT WILL WITH THE NEW KIND ON THE BLOCK,IT TOOK A WHILE FOR US TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER. I REMEMBER RICHARD AS BEING VERY COMPETITIVE ON THE PLAYGROUND AND THAT IS WHAT MADE IT FUN TO GET TO KNOW HIM.. I REMEMBER A "TOP SPINNING " CONTEST WE HAD AND HIS TOP OUTLASTED MINE BY A COUPLE OF SPINS SO HE GOT THE PRIZE. IN HIGH SCHOOL WE BOTH PLAYED FOOTBALL. HE WAS A HALF-BACK AND I PLAYED TACKLE IN FRONT OF HIM. AND WHEN IT WAS HIS TURN TO CARRY THE BALL, HE WOULD ALWAYS SAY,"OPEN A BIG HOLE FOR ME. AND TOGETHER WE GOT A LOT OF YARDS GAINED.. ON ONE OF MY VISITS TO FRESNO, SOME CLASSMATES AND I MADE A TRIP TO VISALIA KAWEAH HOSPITALTO VISIT HIM WHILE HE WAS A PATIENT THERE. I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF PRAYING WITH HIM BEFORE WE LEFT..I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO A GREAT REUNION WITH HIM ON HALLELUJAH SQUARE BEFORE TOO LONG! REST IN PEACE ,MY BROTHER.

Ruben E. Banuelos - April 09, 2019 at 08:22 PM

 Kristie Malek

“ I was the most blessed daughter to have him as my dad. There is peace and comfort that He is with his Savior now. Dad, I love you, more than you could ever really know, and I will see you soon! Your daughter, Kristie Malek.

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**Kristie Malek** - April 09, 2019 at 07:56 PM

MD

Richard, my big brother, you were and continue to be a role model to everyone. You loved people and they loved you. You were a born teacher. You made growing up fun with your adventurous spirit. I'm going to miss talking about Fresno State football and basketball, hearing your stories and sharing your faith. There's now, another big void in the Tovar family. Your sister, Mary

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**Mary Dominguez** - April 10, 2019 at 04:48 PM

VW

Richard you are my fun brother and we had such good times together I will miss you today and always thank you for The Bible you sent me I just read what you wrote December 10th 1994 I'm glad you carry enough to send me a bible I'm sure you did the same for many you were a real bible Thumper loved you very much Vicky

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**Vicki wadley** - April 11, 2019 at 02:05 AM

MT

*I was blessed to have three brothers and five sisters and all contributed to who I am today. However, Richard and I grew up together like two peas in a pod. Seldom does a day go by that some current event will remind me of him. When I bend over to pick up a coin in the street it reminds me of the time Richard found a twenty dollar bill in a store aisle and he promptly gave it to the store owner. He was hired on the spot. As kids we used to collect Popsicle Wrapper's and send them off to Popsicle Pete for toys. We were known as the Bee Boys because we collect bee swarms and made hives for them. Collected pigeons at the Rail Road Yard by climbing up on the Cars and grabbing them off the rafters. Raced Pigeons, Had two paper routes the Bee and the Guide. Mowed a dozen yards with old push mowers and hand edgers. Richard would work you. But all the time we had fun and laughed a lot. The one thing that sticks out in my mind besides his honesty was his kindness. At one time he was a milkman and had many poor people on his route. One particular family had ten kids and he kept them in milk, eggs, and butter at not cost to them. He was an Altar Server for a couple of Sundays but the Church was to far to do it on a regular basis. He loved the Bible. Every time I talked or email him the Bible would come up followed with long interpretations. I keep him in my prayers and memories.*

*Marc."Chano" Tovar*

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**Marc Tovar** - April 12, 2019 at 11:50 AM