



## Alma A. Russo

December 20, 1950 - October 1, 2022

It is with deep and heavy sadness that we announce the death of Alma Anna Tabacchi Russo. Alma passed away on October 1, 2022, in Visalia, CA, after a one-year battle with liver cancer.

Alma was born on December 20, 1950, at Saint Francis Hospital to Emilio and Jennie Zanella Tabacchi. She attended kindergarten at Lincoln School on the corner of Cota and Santa Barbara Streets, which is now a parking lot. She attended Dolores School and then went to Santa Barbara High School, graduating in 1968.

After attending Santa Barbara City College, she worked for Dr. Ronald Robertson, who's dental office on Islay Street backed up to Renga Brothers on State Street. It was there that Alma met the love of her life, Mike Russo. They were married on December 5, 1970, and celebrated 51 happy anniversaries together.

In 1982, Alma and Mike purchased property in Woodlake, CA, where they had a home built and planted grapes. Both Alma and Mike worked for the United States Post Office, with Alma retiring in 2010. She and Mike enjoyed taking cruises, including the Panama Canal, Mexico and the California Coast. Alma also enjoyed fishing, camping and cooking. She loved to try any craft that caught her eye.

Alma was preceded in death by her parents Emilio and Jennie Tabacchi, and her brother Jim Tabacchi.

Alma is survived by her husband Mike, nephew Fred (Cindy) Tabacchi, niece Julie (Joseph) Grimes, grandniece Laura Tabacchi, and many cousins here in Santa Barbara and Italy.

A Rosary will be held on Monday, October 10, 2022, at 7:00 pm at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church. Graveside services will be held on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at 10:00 am at Calvary Cemetery.

The family would like to thank Kaweah Health Hospice and the amazing staff at Transitions Care Services for the love and care they provided to Alma.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Kaweah Health Hospice or your favorite charity.

Arrangements entrusted to Welch-Ryce-Haider Funeral Chapels (805) 965-5145.

# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Cemetery

199 North Hope Ave  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
(805) 687-8811  
[http://www.archdiocese.la/directories/cemeteries/info.php?cemetery\\_id=3](http://www.archdiocese.la/directories/cemeteries/info.php?cemetery_id=3)

# Previous Events

## Rosary

OCT 10. 7:00 PM (PT)

Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church  
21 E Sola Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

## Graveside Service

OCT 11. 10:00 AM (PT)

Calvary Cemetery  
199 North Hope Ave  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
(805) 687-8811  
[http://www.archdiocese.la/directories/cemeteries/info.php?cemetery\\_id=3](http://www.archdiocese.la/directories/cemeteries/info.php?cemetery_id=3)

# Tribute Wall

BH

“ Just wanted to share a few wonderful memories I have of Alma. I met Alma in the mid 60's through my parents. My mom and dad were Alma's parents best man and maid of honor and we became friends immediately. Throughout our teenage school years we wrote to each other. When I was lucky enough to go to Santa Barbara during the summers since I also had family there, we would have such great times together. I remember walking to and from the beach. Talking and giggling all along the way. I also remember the great dinners we'd have at the Tabacchi's backyard patio with close family and friends.

Then eventually, Alma met the love of her life, Mike. Alma asked me to be her maid of honor, to keep the tradition of being part of Alma's parents wedding and now their beloved Alma's wedding.

Alma and Mike went on to have a wonderful journey together. Soulmates for sure. Alma is gone, but not forgotten. Thanks for the memories and friends I've kept , because of our parents paths crossing. In loving memory to a beautiful soul. You'll be missed but not forgotten. Your forever friend, Barb ❤️

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Barbara Haney - October 09, 2022 at 04:05 PM

JS

“ Such a great friend for over 65+ years. Such great memories of good times. I will always consider you my very first friend. Love you Alma (Tua) Until we meet again.



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Joann dally schwendtner - October 08, 2022 at 11:36 PM

EF

“ Dear Mike, Fred, Julie Ann and Laura,

*I grew up with Alma, her parents were my godparents. We had a great time growing up big barbecues at Oak Park, outings at Cachuma lake, Cherry picking in Lompoc and many Sundays we spent at Alma's uncle and aunt's dairy farm in Carpinteria. She had a bright smile and great sense of humor.*

*God bless you all. Elena*

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**Elena Felland** - October 05, 2022 at 04:39 PM