



Joseph Anthony Silva

March 18, 1935 - January 15, 2024

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Joseph “Joe” Silva, 88, passed away peacefully at his home with his family surrounding him.

Joe was born in Santa Barbara in 1935 to Joseph Silva and Ida Bettencourt. His childhood was filled with many trips back and forth to San Luis Obispo to visit his grandparents, where Joe and his sisters, Marlene and Ernestine, would explore the family's property. Silva also greatly enjoyed exploring the streets of downtown Santa Barbara. His early years of adventuring marked the beginning of a lifetime of traveling the open roads.

At the young age of 14, Joe met the love of his life, Shirley, at La Cumbre Junior High School, and he never let her go. These two lovebirds later attended Santa Barbara High School together, where they both had fond memories of football games and cruising up and down State Street , meeting at the Blue Onion and listening to their favorite music with friends. Joe and Shirley were married at the Santa Barbara Mission in 1955.

In 1956, they welcomed their daughter, Toni, and in 1959, their son, Steven.

Joe greatly enjoyed taking his family camping, fishing, and boating and showing them the beauty of the Western United States. His joy for driving around California was soon passed on to his daughter and son, who have embarked on many of their own adventures with their children.

Joe had a memory like no other, especially when it came to driving. He could just about tell you how to get anywhere in California by memory. This knowledge was definitely credited to his biggest passion, collecting classic cars and restoring them. He owned a '34 Chevy 3 window coupe, a '50 Mercury coupe, and a '33 Ford coupe. He was a member of the Santa Barbara Igniters Car Club, the Santa Barbara Oldies with Goodies Car Club, the Santa Barbara Model Railroad Train Club, and a regular attendee and entrant at local and national car meets. When he wasn't attending car shows or driving around California, you could find Joe in his garage meticulously dusting off his impressive train collection and waxing his many cars.

Joe worked for Welch-Ryce-Haider Funeral Chapels for over 40 years. Known to all for his hard work ethic and great sense of humor, his soft and gentle soul touched everyone around him and made him the standout he was.

Joe is survived by his wife Shirley, daughter Toni, son Steve, son-in-law Sam, daughter-in-law Nancy, grandchildren Justin, Elise, and Haillie, spouses Bridget and Pat, great-grandchildren Merek, Reeve, and Kaven, and sister Marlene.

Joe was an amazing father and even better grandfather. The endless memories of pastimes shared will forever be cherished and held closely in his friend's and family's hearts.

Tribute Wall

DS

“ One of our favorite neighbors as kids growing up on Newcastle Avenue. Spent a lot of time talking with Joe while he was washing or waxing one of the cars or his boat, way back when. A really good neighbor, a really nice guy! We know that we will surely miss him, Gert & Debi Schelvis

Debra Schelvis - January 25, 2024 at 10:12 PM

TS

“ Love you Dad! ❤️ You always have been the definition of what a Dad means. You will be missed each and everyday and will remain in my heart forever. ❤️ I know how lucky i am to have called you dad- when a picture comes up seeing you always brings a smile and Happy memories.- ❤️ Love you always Toni

Toni Silva Salzman - January 24, 2024 at 09:05 PM

KM

I have Fond memories of Joe. He was a kind and gentle man. He appreciated and enjoyed his family and friends . It was an honor and a blessing to have known Joe. I offer my love and respect to your family. Sincerely, Kristina Manning

Kristina Manning - January 25, 2024 at 11:17 PM