



## Merlyn Cummings

December 27, 1927 - May 21, 2024

Merlyn Cummings was born on December 27, 1927, and passed away May 21, 2024, surrounded by his family in his home. He was born on a farm to Floyd and Grace Turner Cummings. He had three brothers, Everett, Dale, and Russell who preceded him in death. Merlyn taught in a rural one room school after graduating from Oran High School. He earned a BA from the University of Northern Iowa and a MA from the University of Iowa. He also served in the US Army during the Korean War from February 1951 to February 1953. On December 23, 1950, he married the love of his life Helen Staack. Merlyn taught school for a total of 37 years in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and after moving to California in 1965, he continued his teaching career at Goleta Valley Jr High, retiring in 1988. He started his real estate career in 1978, serving most of the time with Town 'n Country Realty, retiring in 2008. Merlyn served the community in several capacities with Goleta Pride, Goleta Valley Beautiful, Goleta Historic Society, directing a neighborhood fourth of July parade, mentoring Junio High Students, and at Calvary Baptist Church and St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in several positions. He organized and directed retired men and women maintaining the Church facilities with His Helping Hand for 25 years. He was honored as Goleta Man of the Year in 2008. Merlyn leaves his wife Helen, of 73 years, daughters Kathleen Jones, (who was married to Michael who has since passed), Karen Koeller (Karl) and five grandsons; Tim (Melanie), Jeff (Chandra), Andrew (Cindy), Joe (Alex) and Jacob, one granddaughter, Julia, five great Grandchildren; Sarah, Anastasia,

Russell, Cooper and Elias. Merlyn's Daughter Kristine welcomed her dad into heaven.

A gathering to celebrate Merlyn's life will be held Saturday, May 25th at 10 AM at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 4575 Auhay Dr, Santa Barbara, 93110. A reception will follow at the Church.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAY 25. 10:00 AM (PT)

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church  
4575 Auhay Drive  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
<http://standrewspcusa.org>

# Tribute Wall

KJ

“ Dearest Dad, I know you are having a wonderful time in Heaven, visiting with so many loved ones. I will always cherish the beautiful memories of all the years we shared. From the many trips as a child across the US, to all of the guidance and example you provided to Tim, Andrew, and Sarah. I will miss you always Dad, and look forward to the day we will be together again. Thank you for everything, my precious Dad. I love you so much!

Kathy Jones - June 03, 2024 at 06:05 PM

KK

“ Dearest Dad, Always putting Christ first as well as loving and helping others . So blessed to have had a Dad that guided our family with your words and actions. Love you forever! Love, Karen



Karen Koeller - May 28, 2024 at 02:31 PM

DC

“ Words just can't describe how much I will miss Uncle Merlyn, who was like a dad to me for decades. Thank you for all the things you taught, and thank you for living your life as an example. You certainly were an example of rectitude and love. I am thankful for lifelong memories, knowing the best part of memories is not just making them but feeling them all over again. It was an honor to be with you all my life, and even the last days, minutes and seconds of yours. With love and heartfelt respect, David (David Cummings, grateful Nephew) .

David Cummings - May 27, 2024 at 11:33 AM

JN

“ 6 files added to the album Welch-Ryce-Haider



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**James Nelson** - May 23, 2024 at 05:22 PM