



William R.W. Coleman

July 15, 1941 - December 29, 2016

William R.W. Coleman, 7/15/41 – 12/29/2016

Bill Coleman passed away on December 29th, 2016 at 6:00 am, at home with his wife, Delia, sons, Abraham and Romeo, his daughter in-law Joy and daughter Ligaya by his side. Bill had been diagnosed with lung cancer in October of this year.

Bill was born William Robert Wood Coleman in Santa Barbara, CA on July 15th, 1941, to Shirley and Warren Coleman. He grew up in Mission Canyon with his brother Cole and sister Fredericka, and graduated from Santa Barbara High School in 1959.

Soon after graduation he worked at the family business, Coleman Building Materials, and lived in a small adobe in the Mountain Drive Community started by Bobby and Floppy Hyde, which later became known as 'Santa Barbara's Pioneer Bohemian Community'. Those he met among the group of families on Mountain Drive, and the values he learned there, would be a lasting influence throughout his life. The Mountain Drivers' sense of community, of living without overly processed food, electronic stimulation, and mass consumerism were ideals that he would embody throughout the rest of his life.

His first relationship provided two sons, Basilio and Abraham, and a bridge to the Filipino community, whose culture and values Bill took on wholeheartedly. It was among the Filipino elders that he learned the value of family and the discipline of farming – two factors that would later shape his life. He discovered the meaning of Sakop (family circle) through the Filipinos and

though he was already an avid horticulturalist, it was the Filipino oldtimers, including Lolo Pastor, Claudio Recorba and Federico Talaugan that taught him their traditional farming methods.

In 1963 Bill bought a piece of land on Gobernador Canyon, in Carpinteria, which would become the home base of the Coleman Family and later Coleman Farms. After two years of letter writing, in 1969 he married the love of his life, Fidela (Delia) Calip. She was the yin to his yang and her patience and strength helped him realize his dreams. They danced in the moonlight, created fantastic meals, farmed the land and raised their family together. Soon after they married, Romeo was born, followed by Rizal, Santiago, and Ligaya. With six children, they had laid the foundation for their 'Sakop'.

After working at Carpinteria Valley Lumber and farming part time, he and Delia decided to become full time farmers. In March of 1979, together with a handful of other farmers, including John Tapia and Randy Wade, he established Santa Barbara's first certified farmers' market. The first markets took place monthly, first at the Mission, then the Santa Barbara County Bowl, and later at the Santa Barbara High School. Then the farmers' market moved downtown and took place on a weekly basis.

As the years went on, the farmers' markets increased, as did his involvement in them. He was truly a pioneer in his field, his passion for farming and curiosity always leading him to new discoveries. He was nominated into Slow Food's 'Noah's Ark' for his cultivation of amaranth, and was the first farmer in the area to introduce arugula, endive, radicchio, mizuna, broccoli spigarello and many other vegetables and herbs to the local markets. He was not shy to expand beyond the 'one variety' norm. He cultivated numerous varieties of everyday herbs such as mint and basil, and had 14 different varieties of lettuce. He pushed the boundaries to grow things that at first many would pass by. He re-introduced native edible greens such as lambsquarters and purslane, and rarities such as Jerusalem artichokes and fenugreek, to the local farmers markets.

As his farm grew, so did his family. He is survived by his wife, Fidela, and his

six children and their families –Basilio, his son Alani and wife Sheila; Abraham, his wife Joy, and their children Tesandra and Grant; Romeo, his wife Gillian and their children Lukasz and Isabella; Rizal, his son Codi, his wife Mahana, and their children Owen and Leila; Santiago, his wife Lisa and their children Maria and Amani; and Ligaya, her husband Wolfgang, and their children Sebastian, Camilo and Severin.

Bill was one of a kind. He was a true legend and leaves behind a legacy that will endure for generations to come. He taught us to open our eyes and introduced us to the world and all it has to offer. He taught us the meaning of family and the importance of our roots. He left an impact on everyone he met. His big heart and generosity touched so many – he was able to speak with anyone, and recognized that underneath it all, we are all the same. And it was on that level that he reached out, connected, and opened his heart and his home. His door was always open and there was always a place at the table. Bill had a deftly intelligent sense of humor, lived a fulfilled life, and did not stop short to dance in the moonlight, sing out loud, and enjoy every moment of this sacred life. He did not let fear stand in the way of his playful heart nor convention stand in the way of his dreams.

Farewell, Dad, you will be in our hearts forever. We love you and thank you for creating this wonderful Sakop.

A Rosary will be held on Friday, January 6th at Welch-Ryce Haider on 15 East Sola in Santa Barbara at 7:00 pm, with Visitation from 5:00 – 8:00 pm; and a Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, January 7th at 10:00 am at St. Joseph's Church on 1532 Linden Ave. in Carpinteria.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 6. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (PT)

Welch-Ryce-Haider - Downtown
15 E. Sola St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 965-5145
info@wrhsb.com
<https://www.wrhsb.com>

Rosary

JAN 6. 7:00 PM (PT)

Welch-Ryce-Haider - Downtown
15 E. Sola St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 965-5145
info@wrhsb.com
<https://www.wrhsb.com>

Funeral Mass

JAN 7. 10:00 AM (PT)

St. Joseph's Catholic Church
1532 Linden Ave.
Carpinteria, CA 93013

Tribute Wall

AM

“ *Art MANZANO lit a candle in memory of William R.W. Coleman*



Art MANZANO - March 16, 2017 at 09:45 PM

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“ *In Memory of Bill's friend, Farmer John Tapia and his mother Irene, who loved and highly respected Bill very much. Remember how Bill and John helped start the first Farmer's Market in Santa Barbara. They are the Pioneers - never forget what they did for our community.*

VAYA CON DIOS BILL...

With Grateful Sentiment and Peaceful Blessings to Delia, the children and all the family. God Bless You

I am, Irene Tapia Kasper, sister of John and Stefano, newpew

irene kasper - January 04, 2017 at 11:22 AM

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I first met this lovely couple, Bill and Delia at the Filipino Club of Santa Barbara way back in 1983. My wife and I where so young then and our first impression about Bill is he was so down to Earth and so cool in giving advice to a young couple like us just starting to face the world with little confidence if we can survive the harsh reality of life ahead. " You will be fine just think FAMILY FIRST" was his wisdom that he instilled in my heart that day. He then called his wife, Delia and his kids TOGETHER around me and he said " SAKOP". Over the years my wife and I saw them together regularly with his ever growing family doing together what they loved best introducing my family to different kinds of vegetables, herbs, flowers and fruits grown organically at their farm in Carpenteria at Farmers Market in Santa Barbara and Goleta. On our wedding day with a small budget to go around, Delia and Bill offered to make our flower arrangement at the church and reception within our budget. A gesture that will endured forever in our hearts that a friend in need can be rescued by someone that is true to his belief, " FAMILY FIRST".

They also provided help on my wife's center pieces decoration during their company's Christmas Parties. My family is better off because of this lovely couple's wisdom that we followed, that all we need was focus on the essentials in life and stay the course of achieving our goals like a horse with blinders, no side track looking just straight ahead. Once again at the end Bill was teaching me that your LEGACY in life will always be your FAMILY and that is PRICELESS! Heaven is grateful to have you up above Bill and now you tend to their PARADISE GARDEN ORGANICALLY. We extend our love to Delia and to the entire Coleman Family and their families.

Sincerely, Alex, Cora and Charity Salvador

Corazon & Alex Salvador - January 04, 2017 at 12:29 PM