



Denzil "Denny" Thomas

May 7, 1933 - June 1, 2020

On Monday, June 1, 2020, the Thomas family lost their beloved Dad and Papa Fuzzy, Denzil "Denny" Thomas, unexpectedly due to a sudden septic blood infection that quickly took his life. His family was relieved to know he passed suddenly without pain. He went on to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, whom he loved deeply. He lived a long and eventful 87 years, and was with his family when he passed. Denny passed away in Clovis, CA where he lived for the last 7 years of his life. He spent the majority of his life in Fresno, CA.

Denny was born on May 7, 1933, in San Jose, CA and was raised by his mother Norma and father Clarence "Tuffy" Lindstrom, in Avenal CA. He grew up working in agriculture with his dad and loved raising pigs and chickens on the family ranch. Denny graduated from Central Union High School in Fresno, CA in 1952, and volunteered to serve in the Army during the Korean War. He started his military career at Fort Ord Monterey, CA, and then shipped to Korea where he served in the Tanker Co., 32nd Infantry Division. He spoke frequently of his time in Korea, mostly about how cold it was and the long hours of standing guard in the freezing temperatures. He earned the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the UN Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. The family is honored to have a father and a grandfather serve our country so bravely.

When he safely returned home at the end of the war in 1955, he earned a certification from ABC Business College. He then went on to graduate from the Fresno School of Barbering and worked as a barber for his entire career. He had several hobbies that he enjoyed, including archery, golf, target shooting, crossword puzzles, darts, iPad games, and model-making (ships, airplanes, cars.) He was an avid gun collector, mostly of older model war guns, rifles, and air guns. He especially loved fishing and favored the Kings River as well as other lakes and rivers in the Fresno and surrounding areas. He told many stories of his days fishing and even taught his 2 young daughters how to fish as well. Although Denny was a marksman shooter, he was a very gently soul and did not enjoy hunting, rather honing his skills through target shooting. Denny had an uncanny memory and was able to recall many things from his long life as well as facts that most would

have never remembered, up until the end. He loved watching classic movies and knew a lot about Hollywood movie stars that he shared and passed on to his daughters. Denny was a very “hip” resident at the nursing home he lived in using technology better than many much younger residents than he was. He was much loved there and had made many good friends.

Anyone who knew Denny knows that he is loving, patient, sensitive, and a gentle man. He had a wonderful quick wit and a great sense of humor, which he had until his last days. He always stood up for himself, but never wanted to hurt anyone’s feelings. Denny was a single father in the 1960’s, being both mother and father to his daughters, and was truly the Patriarch to the Thomas family. Denny is survived by his 2 daughters, Tina Robertson and Lisa Lynn and son-in-law Marco Lynn, his grand-children Klariza Lynn, Amy Thomas, Tanya Wolf, Anthony LeBar, and Nathan Martin, his great-grandchildren, Destiny Wong, Alexis Zuniga, Janessa Zuniga, Robert Thomas, Azlynn Castelberry, and Harvey Martin, his great-great grandson Robert Thomas Jr., his nieces Jennifer and Lori Haugen and their children, and cousins Ernest, Ted, and Phillip Lindstrom. He was preceded in death by his parents Norma and Clarence “Tuffy” Lindstrom, his sister Susan Haugen, and his son Denzil “Dean” Thomas.

There will be a reception following the service. Please consider wearing face coverings and practice social distancing.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL 18. 10:00 AM (PT)

Chapel Of The Light

1620 W. Belmont Ave.

Fresno, CA 93728

<https://www.chapelofthelight.com/>

Tribute Wall

DL

“ *Cousin Denny*

The earliest memory I have of my cousin Denny was when I was about five years old. It was when Aunt Norma was living with cousins Denny and Susan in East Fresno, before she and Uncle Tuffy were married, and I came to spend some time with them. Denny and I hit it off right from the beginning. He was 11 years older than me, and it was kind of like having another big brother. We played in the nearby dry canal that had only a few small ponds left from the irrigation season. Before I returned home he gave me my first BB gun, which didn't make mom too happy, but it was a gift from my cousin, so she let me keep it. I don't know why, but he had painted it all yellow, and the paint never dried completely, so every time I picked it up I would get a trace of yellow paint on my hands, which is another fond memory that I have of his generosity. Later, after Uncle Tuffy and Aunt Norma were married, they moved out into the country, on California Ave, which was about three miles from where we lived. Our families got together often, and we kids hung out. Denny took us out on the "back 40" and taught us about target shooting, which I really thought was cool. I hated it when Denny went into the Army, and then to Korea, because I knew that I wouldn't see him for a long time, and Aunt Norma was really worried about him because of the shaky truce we had with North Korea that could fall apart at a moments notice. We had a big celebration when he came home, and it was so great to see him again. Then he was off to go out and "Drag the Main" with his friends, probably to make up for all of the good times he missed out on while he was in the service. Uncle Tuffy got a foreman job out in Avenal, so we weren't able to see them as often, but it was old home week when we did. When Denny moved back to Fresno and became a barber, and then got married, we got to see him more often. Later, after I moved out of Fresno to L.A. and the Bay Area, my mom kept me up to date on how he was doing. I appreciated his sense of humor, as he always had a joke to tell when we saw him. He will be missed.

Dave Lindstrom - July 11, 2020 at 12:13 AM

TR

Awe, thank you cousin for sharing your memories with him. Yellow hmmm? He must have been upgradeing it for you 😊 he definately loved target shooting. He was takeing us when i was a out 10 and my sister was 5 lol.

Tina robertson - September 23, 2020 at 12:02 AM

TR

We miss him so much! He was the best dad and friend. I thank god for choosing him to be our daddy.

Tina robertson - September 23, 2020 at 12:05 AM

AD

“ One of the most nicest person I have met it was a honor to know him he will be missed by all who knew him rip Denny forever in our hearts

Annette duarte - July 08, 2020 at 05:06 PM