



## Ernest Paul Montoya (Dad)

April 6, 1934 - August 24, 2016

Ernest Paul Montoya, 82, of Reedley, CA passed away on the evening of August 24, 2016 at the Veterans Hospital, Fresno, California.

He began his career as long-distance truck driver in 1951.

Ernie, to most of you and “Dad” to us, loved all kinds of military history. Especially Military Aviation and flight demonstration teams including the US Navy Blue Angels, US Air Force Thunderbirds and British Royal Air Force Red Arrows.

He enjoyed his enlistment, when he served our country, in the United States Navy and we heard many humorous stories over the years of him as a young man away from home for the first time. Dad’s love of music extended to Swing Era, Country, Bluegrass, Mexican, and beyond - all of which was passed onto his daughters.

One of our favorite memories to remember is watching him dance together with our Mom, Betty. Dad was married to Betty Jo, from 1953 until her death in 1983.

He is survived by daughters; Donna Reynolds, Fresno CA and granddaughter

Jammie Reynolds, Fresno CA, Teresa Jones, Selma, CA, Darlene Montoya, Orange Cove, CA and grandson Paul Wheeler, Jodie Witherell, Oak Harbor, WA, Doreen Montoya, Oakland, CA, and Darla Montoya, Los Angeles, CA. Ernie's surviving siblings; Irene Centeno, Reedley, CA, Celia Medina, Reedley, CA, Manuel Montoya, Pico Rivera, CA, and baby brother Ray Montoya, Sacramento, CA.

The family appreciates and would like to thank those that came and sat with us at the hospital including recent dear friend, Doug Menefee, Reedley, nephew, Tom Montoya, Santa Clarita, and long-time friend and confidant, Bill Darr of Sacramento. Also those that stopped by to see Dad when he first arrived at the hospital, and those who wanted to come and be with us.

No services are scheduled at this time. There will be a Memorial for Ernie planned at another time, date to be determined. You can view and sign the guestbook for Ernie Montoya on the Chapel of the Light website. [www.chapelofthelight.com](http://www.chapelofthelight.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ Ernest Paul Montoya (Dad)

September 15, 2022 at 09:34 PM



“ 8 files added to the album Remembering Dad...



Doreen Montoya - September 12, 2019 at 07:59 PM



“ Thank you, Ernie, for teaching me about trucking. Rode with you many times while I was growing up, and you taught me a bunch. You trusted me to drive while you slept, and I couldn't have been more than eighteen years old. You called me “Driver,” probably many others as well lol. Later driver, keep on truckin'! -Frank Phillips

Frank Phillips - February 12, 2019 at 10:24 PM



Frank, what a nice message to find that you left here for my Dad. It brought tears to my eyes thinking of this. He must have trusted you a lot to sleep while you drove. Thanks for remembering our Dad and taking the time to leave this message. - Doreen

Doreen Montoya - February 13, 2019 at 01:19 PM



“ *Someone so special can never be forgotten. I will miss listening to you reminisce of times past. Uncle Ernie always had great stories to tell and his quick wit would always fill a room with laughter and smiles. I miss you Uncle Ernie you will always hold a special place in my heart.*



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**Tracy Dove** - September 25, 2016 at 01:30 PM



“ *While we never were fortunate enough to meet Ernie in person, we know and love both his daughters Jodi and Therese. We know how much they loved their father and will miss him and we send the family our sympathy at his loss. Love, Jean and Tom Ascher*

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**Jean Ascher** - September 16, 2016 at 01:20 PM



“ *To the Montoya family, Ernie will be greatly missed he was one of a kind. Our condolences to all of you.*

*Russell & Shirley Franks  
 Space 71*



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**Russell & Shirley Franks** - September 13, 2016 at 07:57 PM



*Thank you Russell & Shirley - from the Montoya sisters.*

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**Doreen Montoya** - September 14, 2016 at 10:06 AM

PA

“ I Miss you Uncle Ernie, at times, I still can't believe it. You will always be in my heart and my memories. All very good memories, for sure! I just need to hear music and there you are :) I will miss hearing your family stories and seeing your red truck around town. All our Love and prayers to all of you!  
From My family; Trish (aka Celia), Carlos, Celina, Carla and Cerena (aka The Tornados)

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**Patricia** - September 08, 2016 at 02:53 PM

PA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall

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**Patricia** - September 08, 2016 at 02:30 PM



“ Uncle Ernie....you were the first one my dad told of me to. Nobody in the family knew about me other than my brother Tom whom you endearingly referred to as "heavy". I was your "short stack". Every time we would meet up while you were passing thru on the rig you would order me pancakes. As I grew, you called me "pancake". I remember walking thru the house on beech wood admiring all your fighter plane pics and listening to your stories about serving in the Navy. I loved watching and listening to you and my dad laugh and tell old stories. To this day and forever more I will cherish being "pancake". I love you uncle. I'm so happy that Jodie and I prayed for you at the hospital. I will always hold that close to me. Say hi to my dad please. Love always, pancake...xoxo

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**Roseanna Montoya** - September 07, 2016 at 09:56 PM

Alan  
Ring

“ To the family of Ernest Montoya, it is never easy to lose a loved one and our hearts and thoughts are with you during this time. I have been a friend of Darlene's for years and she always shared good memories about her Dad. I know he will be missed by many but will be with those that he loved in heaven.



Alan Ring - September 07, 2016 at 01:33 PM

BB

“ From myself, and the rest of us who knew Ernie at Stewart Trucking, he will be missed, and always remembered. He always stayed in touch over the years, and still had a wealth of memories and a great sense of humor. Rest in Peace Ernie.  
Brian Berg

Brian Berg - September 06, 2016 at 11:22 PM



Brian - thank you for the photos and your kind words about Dad.

Doreen Montoya - September 06, 2016 at 11:40 PM

BB

“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Brian Berg - September 06, 2016 at 11:06 PM

 Hayley Hudson

“ *Whilst I didn't know your father Jodie. I know he was in very good hands with you and the family by his side. You were an amazing support and a kind dear friend to my dad and Lois and even more so when dad passed away last year. I know what you are all going through Right now. Take care of yourselves and each other.*  
*With love*

*Hayley ( Jodie's friend from England) xx*

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**Hayley Hudson** - September 06, 2016 at 06:05 PM



*Thank you, Hayley for your kind words and your friendship with my sister.*

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**Doreen Montoya** - September 06, 2016 at 11:44 PM

JM

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



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**Jodie Montoya-Witherell** - August 31, 2016 at 12:08 PM

CW

“ *To the family of Ernest Montoya...We are so sorry for your loss. God's Blessing Be With Each One of You.*

*D.A. and Carol Witherell*

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**Carol Ann Witherell** - August 31, 2016 at 10:17 AM

JM

*Thank you for the beautiful bouquet. My sisters have all seen it.*

Jodie Montoya-Witherell - September 01, 2016 at 02:55 PM

DA

“ 1 file added to the album Family Pictures



darlamontoya - August 30, 2016 at 06:55 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Family Pictures



Doreen Montoya - August 30, 2016 at 02:59 PM

JM

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Jodie Montoya-Witherell - August 30, 2016 at 12:53 PM

JM

“ 3 files added to the album Family Pictures



Jodie Montoya-Witherell - August 30, 2016 at 12:43 PM

RW

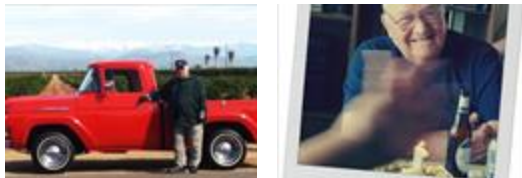
“ You will be missed. Fair winds and following seas shipmate 🚢.



Ron Witherell - August 29, 2016 at 11:57 PM



“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Doreen Montoya - August 29, 2016 at 11:40 PM



“ I love you Dad! You'll always be my Dad no matter where I am in this world and no matter where you are in the Universe.



Doreen Montoya - August 29, 2016 at 10:46 PM



“ 3 files added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Doreen Montoya** - August 29, 2016 at 10:33 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Doreen Montoya** - August 29, 2016 at 10:17 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Family Pictures*



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**Darlene Montoya** - August 29, 2016 at 08:20 PM



*two beautiful people now together forever.*

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**Lee** - September 07, 2016 at 11:02 AM



“ Always liked your dad, even he was hard at times on us boyfriends. He was a very cool dad to have I could see how much he loved all of you very much and you were his most important thing in his life. I will never forget those times as a young person at your house with your parents. My heart is with all of you at this time. May peace be with you.

**Daryl Hildreth** - August 29, 2016 at 07:06 PM



*Thank you Daryl for your kind words about Dad.*

**Doreen Montoya** - August 29, 2016 at 10:44 PM

JM

*Daryl, Thank you for your thoughtful words.*

**Jodie Montoya-Witherell** - August 30, 2016 at 02:32 PM

SH

*To all of my Montoya girls....it was very shocking and sad to hear about Ernie's passing. He was truly a good man and always let me know if I was spending too much time at Beechwood Circle :-). He always had such a great sense of humor. Please know you all are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Much love...Sean, Trish and Trudy*

**Sean Hoffman** - September 02, 2016 at 10:39 AM



*Thanks Sean for your nice comments and funny about Dad letting you know you were spending too much time at Beechwood Cr., :)*

**Doreen Montoya** - September 02, 2016 at 02:02 PM