



Lawrence Jose Riojas

April 18, 1931 - October 12, 2023

Lawrence Jose Riojas was born in San Antonio, Texas on April 18, 1931. He passed away peacefully in his home on October 12, 2023 in Orlando, Florida at the age of 92.

He was preceded in death by his parents Tom and Sulima Riojas, siblings Lucille Lange, Mary Alderman, Josephine Cushman, and grandson Curtis Temple.

Lawrence was also known to his community, church, family, and friends as Larry. He is survived by Mary Jane Niboli Riojas his wife of 59 years, six children who are Joe Riojas, John Riojas, Lawrence Riojas Jr., Janelle Riojas Temple, Kimberly Riojas Erwin and Anthony Riojas. Grandchildren, great grand-children, loving nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family and friends also mourn the loss of their loved one. His sense of humor, infectious laugh, and generosity to people are what makes him unforgettable.

Larry enlisted in the US Army for Basic Training then Jump School in 1951. He was assigned to the 511th Airborne Infantry Regiment during the Korean War. He would earn his Parachute Badge and National Defense Service Medal. His good friend and Army buddy, Hal Abbate, would pave the way for Larry's future in Fresno. After being honorably discharged to Texas, he soon left for Yosemite. He would ultimately work for the Yosemite Park & Curry

Company as a lifeguard and worked at Badger Pass during ski season.

Larry would then leave Yosemite and begin his 50-year career as a horticulturist. He would create Valley Landscaping & Maintenance Company, which became one of the largest landscaping firms in Fresno designing and maintaining commercial and residential properties. He would reach his retirement goal in 2007 at 76 years old. His gift of plant cultivation of succulents, sego palm trees, roses, vegetables, and fruits were evident in his homes in California. The art of growing and maintaining them kept his mind and body active.

Larry stayed active as a lecturer at St. Mary's Catholic Church Masses and Knights of Columbus events. Larry's faith in God and dedication was unmeasurable. This is evident in the several church pilgrimages he made to the poverty-stricken areas of Jamaica in his 70's.

In the summer of 2018, Larry and Mary Jane would start another chapter of their lives and move to Orlando, Florida to live with Janelle who provided a caring home full of love. Larry enjoyed the remainder of his years fishing, water sports, and pridefully watching his grandchildren and great-grandchildren grow.

Visitation will be held at St. Mary Queen of the Apostles Catholic Church, Sunday, November 12th, 2023 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM followed by a Recitation of the Holy Rosary at 6:00 PM. The Funeral Mass will be held at St. Mary Queen of the Apostles Catholic Church at 10:00 AM on Monday, November 13th, 2023 followed by interment at St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

St. Peter's Cemetery

264 N. Blythe Avenue
Fresno, CA 93706

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 12. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (PT)

St. Mary Queen Of Apostles
4636 West Dakota Ave.
Fresno, CA 93722

Recitation of the Holy Rosary

NOV 12. 6:00 PM (PT)

St. Mary Queen Of Apostles
4636 West Dakota Ave.
Fresno, CA 93722

Funeral Mass

NOV 13. 10:00 AM (PT)

St. Mary Queen Of Apostles
4636 West Dakota Ave.
Fresno, CA 93722

Tribute Wall

SF

“ *Sasser Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lawrence Jose Riojas.*

Sasser Family - November 10, 2023 at 11:46 AM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Lawrence Jose Riojas.*



November 10, 2023 at 11:46 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Lawrence Jose Riojas.*



November 09, 2023 at 05:20 PM

RE

“ *"Grandpa Larry" is how my kids always always referred to him. He was always ready to hear their stories or read a book or play a game. He did all the little things a Grandpa would do. He shared his love with my family, without boundries. Generous and loving is what I will always remember!*

Rich Elensky - November 08, 2023 at 09:02 AM

RL

“ Pop’s ,
I will never forget sitting with you chewing the fat and talking about life. I have missed those conversations with you , I miss shooting the ground squirrel s and mom saying ,” Larry it smells like death out here” stop.....and then we moved back behind the shop..... to shoot more squirrels.
We have to many stories for me to write on here, you are truly missed and truly loved.
Love you pops we will meet again in heaven.



To all of pops children, let it be known , in our conversation s he would always talk about you how much he loved you and yes we talked about the good and the bad, let it be know how much he truly loved all of you.

Red

Red Lancaster - November 01, 2023 at 06:31 PM

JR

“ Dad, I remember one day when John and I were swinging on a big branch on a eucalyptus tree in the backyard and it broke and we went crashing down...you never laughed so hard! Gonna miss you ❤️



Joe Riojas - October 29, 2023 at 07:15 AM

JR

“ Dad I remember when John and I were swinging on that branch on that big eucalyptus tree in the back yard and then it broke and we went crashing down...you never laughed so hard!



Joe Riojas - October 28, 2023 at 08:32 PM

JT

“ Ogh dad. I missed you this morning at the table drinking coffee. I know 92 is a long time, but it still wasn't long enough for me. I miss you so much. Love Janelle

Janelle Temple - October 23, 2023 at 08:39 AM

JT

“ Janelle Temple lit a candle in memory of Lawrence Riojas



Janelle Temple - October 23, 2023 at 08:36 AM