



Robert Silva

March 6, 1941 - May 13, 2020

Robert Silva, was born on March 6, 1941, the seventh child to Juan and Leonila Silva, in Port Costa, California. Soon after Robert's birth, his father Juan, received a promotion to foreman for the Southern Pacific Railroad and was transferred to a small central valley town named Mendota, California. On July 4, 1941, the three-month old Robert, his six other siblings, and his mother Leonila, set foot on the soil of their new homeland. Robert and his eleven siblings attended Mendota schools, but like many students in the central valley, attended high school in a neighboring town. He graduated from Tranquillity High School in 1960. Three years after high school, Robert was drafted into the United States Army and was assigned to the C Battery, 5th Battalion, 16th Artillery. He served until November of 1965. After serving the army, Robert came back to his hometown and worked at two local grocery stores. Leonard's Food Mart and the Mendota Food Center where he became a Produce Manager. Mary Ellen Tostado, a shy and soft spoken girl from another small agricultural town of Selma, California, caught Robert's eye at a Fresno night club, called the The Rainbow Ballroom. That's where he said he met the love of his life and married her on May 29, 1971. In August of 1973, Yvette Marie Silva, their first child to be was born. Thirteen years later, Robert and Mary, were shocked to hear they were having another baby. Kristine Nicole Silva arrived in March of 1986, five days before Robert's birthday. Two years later, Robert and Mary were blown away to hear they were going to have another child! Robert Anthony Silva was born in October of 1988. Robert

and Mary were overjoyed. During this time, of unexpected blessings, Robert's first experience serving his community was coaching sports, and his first introduction to civic duty came when Robert advocated on, behalf of the community, for education reform in Mendota.,

He pledged to improving the lives of the farmworker community and the agricultural industry. He fought to bring back business to his drought impacted town. Robert's 40 years of public service included: Mendota Community Corporation, Mendota Unified School District Board of Trustees, the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission, Fresno Land Agency Formation Commission (including serving as Chairman), the Transportation Authority, The Fresno Council of Governments, The Latino Water Coalition (co-founder), and proudly, the longest-serving mayor of the Mendota City Council. Robert Silva, a man of great integrity, a well-respected leader, a true founding father of his community, a loving husband, a wonderful father, and a unfailing loyal grandfather, will always be remembered and will be missed immensely. Robert is preceded in death by his parents, Juan and Leonila Silva; his brothers, Ignacio and Frank; his sisters, Paula and Mary; his nephew, Frank Jr. Robert is survived by his wife of 49 years, Mary Ellen Silva; his daughters, Yvette Marie and Kristine Nicole; his son, Robert Anthony; his eight grandchildren, Marc, Jacob, and Adam Daniel Alonzo, Cesar Joseph, Isabella Marie, Anthony Roberto, and Claudia Nicole Figueroa, and Gianna Celina Alejandre; his sisters, Nellie Rodriguez, Elsie Silva, Lucy King, and Grace Snowden; his brothers, John, Joe, and Fred Silva.

Cemetery Details

St. Peter's Cemetery

264 N. Blythe Avenue
Fresno, CA 93706

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 3. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (PT)

Chapel Of The Light
1620 W. Belmont Ave.
Fresno, CA 93728
(559) 233-6254
<https://www.chapelofthelight.com/>

Recitation of the Holy Rosary

JUN 3. 6:00 PM (PT)

Chapel of the Light
1620 W. Belmont Avenue
Fresno, CA 93728
michael@chapelofthelight.com
<http://www.chapelofthelight.com>

Funeral Mass

JUN 4. 10:00 AM (PT)

Our Lady of Victory Church
2838 N West Ave
Fresno, CA 93705
(559) 226-1163

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Silva*

September 15, 2022 at 09:34 PM



“ *To Mary and others in Robert's family: May you find comfort and condolence in this time. Robert was a kind and wonderful man. I have very fond memories of him from his years at the Food Center. He was always patient and caring, with a quiet sense of humor. Mendota was fortunate to have his leadership for so long. We will all miss him. Stan Young*

Stan Young - June 06, 2020 at 02:10 PM

VD

“ It was not only an honor to work for Robert Silva, but it was an honor to know the man. To more than a few people, myself included, he will always be known simply as "The Mayor." He put Mendota on the map and gave Mendota a strength and an impact across Fresno County far greater than the City's small population would normally call for.

He was "old school." He was honorable. He had leadership qualities that few possess these days. He will forever live on for me in pleasant memories. And when I'm confronted by professional challenges in the future, I'm sure one of my first thoughts will be, "How would Robert have handled this."

I share this photo from October 2015, when we traveled to Israel to investigate a water purification system for Mendota.

God's speed, Robert!

Vince DiMaggio
Mendota City Manager 2014-2018



Vince DiMaggio - June 03, 2020 at 03:50 PM

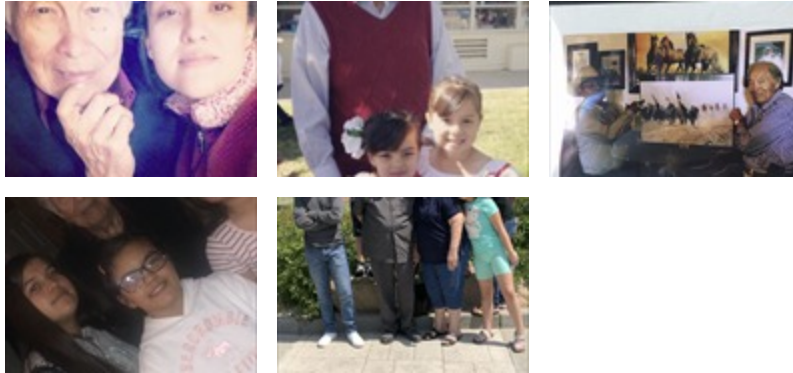
JM

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Jesse Mendoza - June 04, 2020 at 12:05 PM

KS

“ Love you Dad 🙏❤️ Some of our favorite pictures



kristine silva - June 03, 2020 at 01:05 PM

PH

“ My deepest and most sincere condolences to Mary, children and grandchildren. Knowing Robert was truly a blessing. He was never too busy to stop what he was doing to greet and answer questions about anything. A dear sweet man that will be missed in the community for a very long time. God bless the family and I pray for peace and comfort for you all. ❤️

Patricia Harris - June 03, 2020 at 12:55 PM

DM

“ My sincere condolences to Mary and his children and the the rest of the family. I had the pleasure of working with Robert for many years at Mendota Food Center at Star Market. I pray that God will give you all peace, comfort and strength at this sad time. May you rest in peace Robert. This is not good bye but until we meet again.

Della Montalvo - June 02, 2020 at 04:55 PM

RR

*My sincere heartfelt condolences to the Silva family. As former resident and City Clerk of City Mendota for 18 yrs I had witnessed his compassion for his community. He will long be remembered for the legacy he leaves. Rest In Peace Robert and Blessings to the family.
Rosemary Aguilar Ramirez & Family*

Rosemary A Ramirez - June 02, 2020 at 08:41 PM



“ White Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Robert Silva .



June 02, 2020 at 12:25 PM



“ 61 files added to the album Life Tributes



Chapel Of The Light Funeral Home and Mausoleum - June 01, 2020 at 08:05 PM