



Somyot "Sam" Nakpiban

January 11, 1950 - February 29, 2024

Somyot "Sam" Nakpiban left this world on February 29th, 2024, surrounded by the warmth of his treasured family. Born on January 11, 1950, in Thailand, his life was one marked by family, unwavering devotion, and heartfelt generosity.

Growing up in Thailand, he loved to play soccer and hang out with friends. In 1970, he came to the United States to attend college. He landed in Fresno with a few hundred dollars and a suitcase full of dreams.

He worked hard while attending college to learn English and in the process of getting settled into the Central Valley, he met the love of his life, Linda. The two spent more than 50 years together.

Sam's story was one of resilience, built on hard work and the desire to achieve the American dream. He never took the opportunity to be in America for granted.

For more than 40 years, Sam worked in the food service industry, delivering food for SE Rykoff, and US Foods. He later worked at Foster Farms and Max's Artisan Bread. He was most known for his warm smile and magnetic personality. He loved talking to customers and making new friends.

He loved classic rock and American cars. He had two 1966 Ford Mustangs and was so happy when one was completely restored this past year.

Sam was a staple at stores like Costco and Vons where he befriended just about every employee and customer alike. He would shop- but spend most of

the time socializing.

In his passing, Sam is reunited with his parents, Prasert and Somchit Nakpiban, and his beloved sister, Soontaree Williams.

He leaves behind a lasting legacy cherished by his wife, Linda Nakpiban; his children Sontaya Rose Schmidt (Eric), Somchai Nakpiban (Jennifer), Soontorn 'Raully' Nakpiban, and Cassandra Lynn Frazier. His greatest blessings were his grandchildren whom he deeply loved.

In every conversation he had, every life he touched- his memory lives on. He will forever remain a blessing to each person he encountered.

A viewing will be held on Friday, March 8, 2024 from 4:00 pm - 7:00 p.m. at Chapel of the Light Funeral Home. A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, March 9, at 10:00 a.m. at Clovis Hills Community Church, located at 10590 N. Willow Avenue, Clovis, CA 93619. A reception will immediately follow. Directions will be provided at the service.

Previous Events

Viewing

MAR 8. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

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

Celebration

MAR 9. 10:00 AM (PT)

Clovis Hills Community Church
10590 N. Willow
Clovis, CA 93619

Tribute Wall



“ I'll never forget those Disney VHS tapes and The Bee Gees we used to watch together, or how he'd get an inflatable pool from Costco every summer because he knew how much I loved swimming. There was always an endless supply of cereal, even when I tried going on a diet. He'd always stop to watch whenever a plane flew overhead along with planes taking off on YouTube. Our rides home from KIPP were filled with laughter and memories, especially when he'd crank up the 'drive at 5' mix on the radio. Sometimes, he'd even roll down the windows and blast the music just to embarrass me, dancing and singing along like nobody was watching whenever his favorite tunes came on. He always liked a song with a good beat. On the days mom would pick me up from KIPP, he'd always make sure my favorite dinner was waiting at home. I'll always cherish the times I practiced for my driver's license with him in that green Honda. The day of the test, I think he was even more thrilled than I was, waiting eagerly in the parking lot. When the driving instructor and I walked back, his look asked the question, and my thumbs up gave him a huge smile as he did a thumbs up back. I'm so thankful he was my Dad. I couldn't have wished for anyone better. He's going to be missed every single day. Love you dad. - Cass

Cassandra Frazier - April 18, 2024 at 03:24 PM