



David Thomas Farotto

December 6, 1955 - October 29, 2025

David Thomas Farotto, passed away at his home in Atascadero, California, on October 29, 2025, at the age of 69, after courageously battling cancer. He was surrounded by his devoted wife of 46 years and their daughters.

David was born on December 6, 1955, in Santa Clara County to Vincent and Rose Farotto. He grew up in Gilroy, California, alongside his brother, John, and sister, Linda (Calvino). In his younger years, he enjoyed riding dirt bikes and playing baseball.

In August 1979, David married the love of his life, Mary Gabriele Farotto, after meeting during a root beer run to A&W, where Mary worked — unknowingly orchestrated by his mother. Together they built a beautiful life in Hollister, California, raising their two daughters, Felicia and Lisa.

David dedicated more than 47 proud years to his career. He started his career as a Technician at Teledyne McCormick Selph, and completed his retirement as a Quality Assurance Engineer at Pacific Scientific in Hollister. His meticulous work ethic and passion for aerospace engineering contributed to numerous NASA

missions — a source of great pride and accomplishment. Even after retirement, he continued to consult as a highly respected expert in his field.

David found joy in many passions. Over the years, he restored several classic cars to their original glory. You could find him every Friday night at the Watsonville Speedway, watching the races with Mary, his sister Linda, and brother-in-law Jimmy. One of his cherished bucket-list memories was attending the Daytona 500 in Florida.

David was an avid fisherman, a tradition started in childhood with his grandfather and father, and lovingly shared with his children and grandchildren in later years. He loved exploring scenic back roads and streams, searching for peaceful beauty and the perfect catch.

Raised in an Italian family, David grew up with a passion for food. From an early age, he could often be found next to his mother as she cooked, offering his enthusiastic “notes” on dinner preparations. Whether he was savoring steak and lobster, or seeking out a hidden gem restaurant, he was always on the hunt for his next great meal.

In retirement, David and Mary moved to the Central Coast to be near their daughters and grandchildren. He enjoyed tending to his roses and vegetable garden, cheering proudly at his grandkids’ sporting events, and continuing to explore his love of nature.

David is survived by his beloved wife, Mary Farotto; his daughters, Felicia Ulibarri and Lisa Traub; his sons-in-law, David Ulibarri and Jordan Traub; and his adored grandchildren, Austin, Mila, May, and Beau. His greatest wish was to make his family proud, and he far exceeded that dream through the remarkable legacy he leaves behind.

A Catholic Mass will be held on Friday, November 14, 2025, at 10:00 AM PST at Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, followed by burial at the Old Mission Cemetery and reception at Madonna Inn.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in support of cancer research — a cause held close to David's heart and those who loved him.

https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html?sc_icid=home-btn-donate-now

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

NOV **14**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

Old Mission Catholic Church
751 Palm St
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Graveside Service

NOV **14**. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (PT)

Old Mission Catholic Cemetery
101 Bridge St
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
(805) 541-0584
<http://www.cfcsmonterey.org>

Reception

NOV **14**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (PT)

Madonna Inn
100 Madonna Rd
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405
(805) 543-3000

Tribute Wall



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of David Thomas Farotto.*



November 09, 2025 at 01:13 AM



“ *Rinaldi family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Thomas Farotto.*

Rinaldi family - November 09, 2025 at 01:13 AM



“ *Steve and Dian Arnoldy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Thomas Farotto.*

Steve and Dian Arnoldy - November 07, 2025 at 05:02 PM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of David Thomas Farotto.*



November 07, 2025 at 05:02 PM

MH

“ To Mary and family-

I had the pleasure of working with Dave at PacSci EMC for many years when he was a part of the reliability team. Dave's vast knowledge of the products and his willingness to share his knowledge with others made a significant impact on the teams. He was an excellent mentor who did a great job of explaining how things work to make it easier for others to understand. Even when there were tough problems to solve, Dave was always calm and systematic in his approach to help solve the problems the right way. He was very dedicated and took great pride in his work.

Personally, I will always remember our conversations about cars and sprint car racing. It was fun to hear about what new changes he was making to the GTO. It was always great to see Dave out at Watsonville/Ocean Speedway on many Friday nights for the sprint car races.

Dave was one of the nicest people I have met and will be greatly missed.

*Sincerely,
Mike Horne*

Mike Horne - November 07, 2025 at 01:15 PM

JG

“ I called Davey on Saturday, October 25th, and left a voicemail message that ended with “Dave, we love you. God Bless.” That sums up my close relationship with my brother from another mother. For 45+ years we have been best mates and remained in contact, despite going separate ways in late 2006. I could write volumes about Dave and how much he has meant to our family but shall highlight just a couple.

When I joined PSEMC in March 1980, Dave was working in Manufacturing and then in the Test Department. When we needed a Reliability Engineer, Dave wrote me a note that asked why we would look any further than someone like him who was talented, the best of team players, and who would pour his heart and soul into the job. Dave was 100 percent correct and he was hired immediately. Our Reliability team, that included Mike Maheu and Ron Schowe, truly became a band of brothers for life.

Dave’s expertise in test fixturing and function testing was exceptional. Dave and I collaborated to define the minimum flyer plate velocity to reliably function an acceptor booster. To this day it remains the benchmark in reliability testing. I remember one of the legends in the industry, Morry Schimmel, stating that he was amazed at our ingenuity and that he could now die happy. Until we tackled the issue, no one else knew how solve it. Dave’s test setup and procedure were coveted by many and PSEMC finally permitted Dave to share these with the Navy and Air Force. Dave was a perfectionist but also a visionary. Dave was humble and had no qualms when others presented results of testing, even when he was the principal resource.

Despite my leaving for NASA in December 2006, Dave and I remained in continuous contact. In late 2020, Dave told me he was overwhelmed with his workload and asked if I could write two critical reports for PSEMC that were four months overdue and essential to a missile program. After declining several times, I reluctantly wrote the reports but made sure all involved knew that I was doing it only

because of Dave.

In September 2023, the Navy and Applied Research Associates (ARA) invited me to support their Linear Explosives Working Group as a Subject Matter Expert (SME). My problem with the SME role is that I am more knowledgeable with the testing and characteristics of the finished product than the manufacturing steps in making the product. So, when Dave retired from PSEMC, and moved to Atascadero, it was my opportunity to ask him for a favor and join the ARA team as an SME. Dave knew linear explosive products, from womb to maturity, far better than me. James Bradshaw, our ARA Lead, sent this note, "I only started working with Dave roughly 3 years ago, bringing him on as a subject matter expert and consultant. I never got to meet Dave in person, but he was an expert, a pleasure to work with, and had a wonderful sense of humor. My team and I are at a loss for Dave's departure, and while we don't know any of you, I did want to share we considered him a wonderful man dedicated to the security of our country. Our most sincere condolences." Dave cherished this opportunity to share his knowledge but made sure nothing proprietary was communicated.

This year, 2025, I was asked to wear my SME hat to help PSEMC in a minor consulting role and a new friend, Gannon Buss, a project engineer, sent me the following message: "John, I am saddened to hear the news of Dave's passing -he was a great guy. He maintained a calm demeanor, even in stressful or difficult situations, and wasn't afraid to speak up if something wasn't right. I learned much from him in the brief time I knew him. He will be missed."

It was Dave who took our sons fishing and taught them the tricks of the trade. Older son, Johnny, commented: "My heart goes out to Dave and his family. I've used the sliding bobber setup many times in lake fishing that Dave taught us during our fishing trips with him. He was like an uncle and treated us like his family."

All three of my brothe

John Glass - November 06, 2025 at 12:13 PM

JG

“ 4 files added to the album *Dave and His Mates*



John Glass - November 05, 2025 at 04:27 PM

SC

So sorry to hear of your husband, father and grandfather's passing. May he rest in our Lord's Eternal Light. 🙏

Sherin Higgins Cuneo - November 06, 2025 at 03:08 PM

RS

Ronald Schowe

Yesterday

I was hired by John Glass as a Reliability / System Safety Engineer in 1987. John introduced me to Dave Farotto and Mike Maheu on my first day at Teledyne McCormick Selph (TMcS). Based on John's leadership and the teamwork of the group we coalesced into an inseparable Band of Brothers.

My first assignment was to become Dave's shadow. I basically became Dave's assistant for the next 2 years as we worked through several high-profile failure analyses. His knowledge of propellant production processes, as well as manufacturing processes, enabled us to quickly focus on potential failure modes. As we spent time in the lab, we became friends.

Change is inevitable. I eventually left TMcS and joined Orbital Sciences Corporation. From there, I went to Nammo Talley. John eventually went to Florida. Mike left for other opportunities. Dave became the new "John Glass". He was the go-to guy when there was a problem. As the head of Quality at Nammo Talley, I was one of TMcS, and later Pacific Scientific's, customers. I relied on Dave's product knowledge and honesty to make critical decisions.

I remember his commitment to his family and his love of classic cars.

Fair Winds and Following Seas

*Ronald R. Schowe
CAPT/USNR (Ret.)*

Ron Schowe - November 14, 2025 at 06:12 PM

DG

“*Rhiannon & I are so sorry to hear about the loss of your husband, dad, and grandpa. He was so young and I know he fought this battle with all he had, dignity, and strength for his family. We are sending you love 💕 and hugs!! Dorian Rollins-Gonzales & Rhiannon Gonzales*

Dorian Rollins Gonzales - November 04, 2025 at 10:10 PM

DR

“ Dorian R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Thomas Farotto.

Dorian R. - November 04, 2025 at 10:05 PM

SM

“ Dearest Mary and family. I am heartbroken for your loss. Know how much you are all loved and cared for. Hugs and prayers being sent to all.
Sue Mota-Redmond

Susan Mota-Redmond - November 03, 2025 at 11:29 PM

MV

“ Mary,
Hugs to you and your family! I am sorry to hear about your husband!
Merri Vieira

Merri Vieira - November 03, 2025 at 07:29 PM