



Herbert "Herb" Filipponi

December 31, 1932 - November 9, 2025

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Herbert Filipponi 92, passed away peacefully on November 9, 2025. He was born on New Year's Eve, 1932, in San Luis Obispo to Swiss-Italian immigrants Lawrence and Annie Filipponi. Herb spent his childhood on the family's dairy ranch in San Luis Obispo alongside his beloved younger sister, Joann Denbow.

A proud graduate of San Luis Obispo High School (Class of 1950) and the University of California, Berkeley (Class of 1955), Herb went on to enjoy a 50-year career as a civil engineer with the California Department of Transportation.

Herb met the love of his life, Diane, on a "street corner" in San Luis Obispo. After a two year courtship, they married and began a partnership that lasted 68 wonderful years. Together, they built a life rooted in love, family, and service to their community. They raised three daughters-Julie, Dana, and Lisa-who were the heart of their lives and a source of constant pride and joy. Herb instilled in them the values he lived by: hard work, integrity, and compassion for others.

Beyond his professional life, Herb was deeply committed to giving back. He was a 40-year member of the Kiwanis de Tolosa, a 25-year leader of the Edna 4-H Club and a dedicated volunteer for CASA and the Juvenile Justice Committee. This past July he was able to attend the 100-year anniversary event for the Edna 4-H club.

Herb was active well into his 80s and had a passion for travel, especially trips with Diane around the world and to his parents' homeland of Switzerland. He loved skiing, gathering with friends and family, and, above all, cooking and barbecuing for anyone and everyone. His legendary BBQs, whether for charities, friends, or family, will be deeply missed.

In later years, Herb followed his entrepreneurial spirit and love of community by founding Filipponi Ranch Winery on the very same land where he grew up. Whether in the tasting room, on the tractor, or behind the BBQ at wine club parties, Herb could always be found sharing stories, laughter, and kindness. He never met a stranger and genuinely cared about everyone he met.

Herb is survived by his devoted wife, Diane; his three daughters, Julie Franklin (Donald), Dana Milstead (Scott), and Lisa Cracknell (Russ); seven grandchildren— Gavin, Davis, Maren, Lindsey, Jack, Sam, and Anne, sister JoAnn Denbow, six great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents Lawrence and Anne Fiipponi.

A celebration of life will be held on December 31, 2025 at 11:00 AM at Filipponi Ranch, 1800 Calle Joaquin. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Transitions Mental Health or the charity of your choice in Herb's memory.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

DEC 31. 11:30 AM (PT)

MADONNA INN EXPO CENTER
120 MADONNA RD.,
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93405

Tribute Wall

TH

“ Had not heard that Herb had passed until yesterday and sorry I missed his Memorial. One of those people you can call "Salt of the Earth" in all the best ways. Always friendly, helpful, giving and generous and always ready with a story to tell or to listen to yours. I feel privileged to have known him. So sorry to hear of his passing and send my sincere condolences to Diane and all the Family. He will be missed by many.

Tim Hutchinson - May 20 at 04:14 PM

MM

“ I remember the wonderful times Ralph and I had attending the Kiwanis barbecues! Herb always made everyone feel welcome and appreciated. I am so grateful to have know him. His legacy will live on through all the lives he touched and the love he shared. Martha Michalojko Kettelkamp

Martha Michalojko - November 28, 2025 at 06:58 PM



“ Sorry for your loss of Herb. My father Claude Miller worked with Herb at Cal Trans for many years. He had a great fondness of Herb. They Barbecue alot together. Thoughts and prayers go out to the whole family. Sincerely, Claudia Miller Brown

Claudia Brown - November 21, 2025 at 02:44 PM

LC

“ Thinking of all of the fun times I spent with my friend Herb. I will miss him dearly. Keeping Diane and family in my prayers. With deepest condolences,
Lynn Cooper

Lynn Cooper - November 20, 2025 at 02:38 PM

MC

Herb was one of the dearest and caring gentleman that I have ever met. I had the honor and privilege of working with Herb at Old Country and spent memorial family events at the ranch. He will be dearly missed. Sending lots of love to his family. Monique Carlton

Monique Carlton - November 22, 2025 at 10:59 AM

TM

I was just a young boy growing up and meeting Herb and his wonderful family. Went to school with his youngest daughter Lisa. Served in 4H with their family and had many a great bbq's with their family. It was the best of times growing up in SLO. My parents who have both passed adored Herb. He was truly a breed of men we will never see again. Selfless, patriotic, kind and a true family man. We will all miss him dearly.

Terry and Brenda McAdams - December 30, 2025 at 08:32 PM