



Joseph L Cardoza

May 6, 1931 - December 8, 2025

Joseph Louis Cardoza

1931 – 2025

Joseph Louis Cardoza, 94, passed away peacefully on December 8, 2025, in San Luis Obispo, California. Born in San Luis Obispo to Portuguese immigrant parents, he was a long time resident of the Central Coast.

Joe graduated from Mission High School in 1950, where he served as Senior Class President and excelled as a three-sport varsity athlete. He went on to serve honorably in the United States Navy, completing his service in 1954.

In 1956, Joe married the love of his life, Mary “Louise” Gomes, after first seeing her during his downtown rounds for Rizzoli’s while working for the San Luis Garbage Company. Together, they built a life marked by dedication and entrepreneurship. Their work took them from San Luis Obispo to Santa Maria, where they operated a dairy business, and then to San Jose to run a trucking company. Joe later returned to San Luis Obispo, becoming a realtor and eventually founding Cardoza Realty. He also built several homes, beginning with one constructed in the late 1960s on a portion of his parents’ ranch.

Joe cherished time spent with family, especially with Louise along local beaches, lakes, and on travels—including memorable trips to the Azores, homeland of his parents. He was an avid outdoorsman, pursuing big-game

hunting throughout the Mountain West into his eighties and enjoying fishing along the Pacific Coast and the Gulf of California. Known for his hospitality, he delighted in sharing his signature barbecue, smoked fish, and homemade canned goods with loved ones.

Joe was a proud member of the Portuguese Holy Spirit Society – Trinity Hall in San Luis Obispo, honoring the heritage that contributed to the region's early agricultural development. He was a lifelong Catholic and member of the Knights of Columbus, Council No. 1271, at Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, as well as a member of American Legion Post 66.

He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Louise; his children Ed (Nancy), Joe, Cathy Lee, and Julie (Chip) Hastings; nine grandchildren Ryann, Emily, Alison, Katie, Clare, Shelly, Joey, Will, and Zachary; and four great grandchildren- Isla, Anthony, Simon, and Henry, were a source of great pride and joy. He was preceded in death by his parents, Antonio V. and Barbara Lucas Cardoza; brothers Manuel, Anthony, and Alfred; and sisters Marguerite Pearson and Mary Cardoza.

A Memorial Service will be held on January 15, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, with refreshments to follow in the Parish Hall. A private graveside interment will take place at the Old Mission Cemetery on land originally donated by Joe's parents.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to PHSS – Trinity Hall SLO.

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

JAN **15**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Joseph L Cardoza.



January 15 at 12:37 PM



“ *John Chanz purchased the Enchanted Cottage* for the family of Joseph L Cardoza.



John Chanz - January 12 at 12:56 AM



“ *John Chanz planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph L Cardoza.*

John Chanz - January 12 at 12:56 AM



“ *Basket of Memories* was purchased for the family of Joseph L Cardoza.

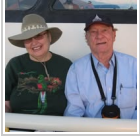


December 20, 2025 at 06:49 PM

BS

“ *Bea (Triss) Soils planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph L Cardoza.*

Bea (Triss) Soils - December 20, 2025 at 06:49 PM



“ *So sorry to hear of Uncle Joe's death. He was such an important part of my childhood. Famous for his warm spirit and bright smile. I hope he and my mom are hugging in Paradise. Condolences to all the family.*

Beatrice Soila - December 20, 2025 at 06:43 PM