



Richard Edward Terra

January 26, 1934 - August 3, 2018

Richard Edward Terra, 84, of Santa Margarita, passed away August 3, 2018, following an extended illness. Richard was a San Luis Obispo County, California native, having been born at home in Morro Bay on January 26, 1934 to parents Thomas & Josephine Terra. Driving a tractor for the Domenghini family at age 8 is one of many stories he liked to recall. Richard was a Korean War veteran, having actively served in the army as a sergeant from March 19, 1952 until his Honorable Discharge on March 18, 1955. Richard worked for the San Luis Obispo County Road Department as a foreman. A newly retired county employee recently shook Richard's hand, noting that they still talk about his legendary reputation there. Richard has always been very proud of his Portuguese heritage and stubbornness. In later years Richard was employed by the Hartzell Ranch as a heavy equipment operator. During his retirement, Richard remained very active, continuing to enjoy his lifelong passions of hunting, fishing, camping, and gardening. Many in and around the county have enjoyed the Santa Maria-style BBQ pits Richard custom made, right up until his passing. Richard is survived by his 4 children, Lori (Kevin), Shari (Kurt), Richard (Renee), and adopted son, Rob. Richard is also survived by his sister, Lucille Cardoza, his 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren, as well as numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces & nephews. Richard was truly loved by his family and many friends, and he will be greatly missed by us all. Family and friends are invited to a Celebration of Life being held Saturday, August 18, 2018 at the Trinity Hall in

San Luis Obispo from 12–4 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to one of the following charities in memory of Richard:

<https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/donate>

<https://www.stjude.org/give/memorials-and-dedications.html>

Tribute Wall

“ *To the Friends & Family of Richard Terra:*

We would like to thank all of you who were in attendance of our father's Celebration of Life, and also those of you who contributed food for the gathering, helped with setup and take down, or who may have contributed to a charity in his name. Without the generous help and support of our family and friends, we wouldn't have been able to pull this together so quickly, thus allowing out of state family with children to be in attendance.

I would like to share with you all now what we would like to have said about our father had we not been so overcome by grief:

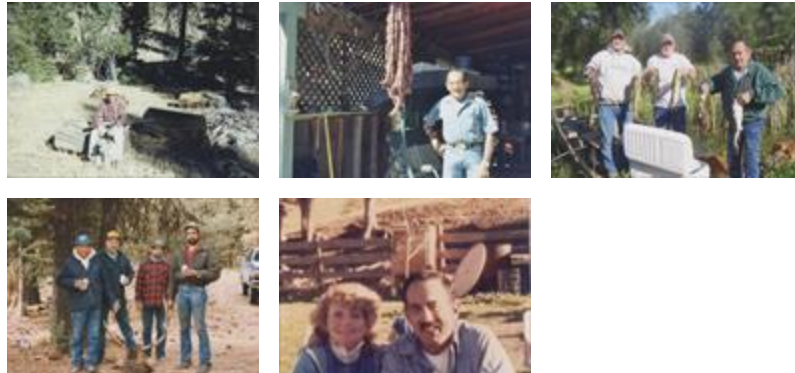
Our father, Richard Terra, was born at home in Morro Bay, California to parents Thomas & Josephine Terra. He is survived by his sister, Lucille, and preceded in death by his parents, and siblings: Josephine Terra, William, Arthur, Irene Myers, and Josephine Nelson. Dad has always been very proud of his Portuguese ancestry, as are we all. As a member of a large family, Richard worked hard from a young age. He liked to recount the story of how at 8 years old he drove a tractor for the Domenghini farm at night.

Richard was a Korean War Veteran, serving as a Sargent in the United States Army for three years. Later after returning home, Richard worked for the San Luis Obispo County Road Department where he lost his leg in an accident. People meeting our dad for the first time were always surprised to find out that he had just one leg; this disability never kept him from doing anything that he wanted to do. After retiring from his job as foreman for the county, dad went into business for himself, purchasing a dump truck and loader. He was later employed by the Hartzell Ranch of Cayucos, as a dozer operator.

Our father suffered from alcoholism most of his life, but facing a failing marriage and possible job loss, he decided to quit drinking nearly 20 years ago. He never touched alcohol again, not once.

Richard was a good, hardworking man; generous to a fault he loved to give to others, helping out wherever he could. Never confused about what was right or wrong, we all learned that there was “Dad’s Way”, and the “Wrong Way”! He shared his precious knowledge and wisdom with all who would listen and receive it. He easily made friends and earned their love and loyalty. He was happiest when he was busy, and he enjoyed gardening, camping, hunting, and fishing during his spare time. Dad made Santa Maria style BBQ pits right up until his passing, always physically active.

This wonderful, stubborn, honest, good man was our father. We are proud of him and love him dearly. He will be sorely missed. God rest his soul.



Lori L. Brians - August 23, 2018 at 11:19 AM

DB

“*Pa always loves my spaghetti, so whenever I make it we would invite him down or send up a bowl. He always tells me he needs to make sure he has ketchup to put on top, with that mischievous smile and wink. So I got to where I would send down ketchup packets to make sure he always had some.*

Whenever he would see me when I was leaving for work, he asked if I had a dress that would fit him and would make his eyes pretty. I would tell him I do and so pretty just for you!!

Dena Brians - August 12, 2018 at 11:50 AM

TS

“ *Papa Richard meant the world to our family...he was married to my Mom until she passed away....every minute of everyday he was part of our lives.....we love you today, tomorrow and forever* ❤️



Tiffany Silva - August 11, 2018 at 12:20 AM

CP

“ *6 files added to the album Papa Richard*



Carrie Pulse - August 08, 2018 at 06:26 PM

LR

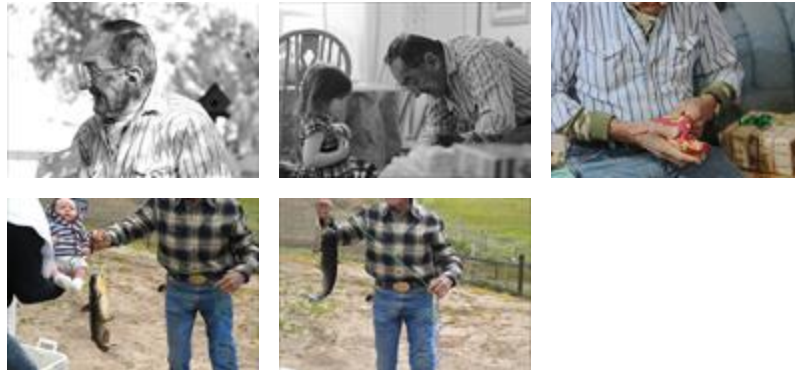
“ Papa was always part of our lives; it felt like he was part of the land itself. He grew enormous, thriving gardens, surrounded himself with chickens and dogs, and enjoyed showing us around his little kingdom. I was always in awe of the way he created things, building animal enclosures and planting flowers and vegetables, making a place to call home, making something where before there was nothing. Growing up, it was always exciting to visit him on the ranches where he lived and worked.

He was cheerful, a hard worker, and I know I inherited his industrious spirit. He was a good man and he will be missed.

Lynne Riffenburgh - August 07, 2018 at 01:22 PM

LR

“ 5 files added to the album Papa Richard



Lynne Riffenburgh - August 07, 2018 at 11:56 AM