



## Charles A. Reiland

April 11, 1937 - January 3, 2021

Charles Arthur Reiland was born in Illinois in 1937 and was the oldest child born to Charles Henry Reiland and Louise Reiland.

Chuck was very fortunate to have a gentleman mentor him. At the age of ten he was picking crops for Ted Lau who taught him to milk cows and build cars. His chosen profession was to farm in his teenage years. At the age of twenty he was farming 20 acres of tomatoes and hauling his crop to Libby's where it became "stewed tomatoes." Chuck, during these formative years, changed his mind- he loved working on cars and this would become his new profession. He owned his first car, a 1949 Ford, at the age of 15, and he earned this from farming. This work gave him a healthy self-esteem. Everyone that knew him called him "Riley" after William Bendix, "The Life of Riley."

In 1960 Uncle Sam drafted Chuck to various locations in the United States and his favorite place was Monterey, California. His years in the Army preceded Viet Nam and the Bay of Pigs incident under President Kennedy.

Gerry and Chuck met after his basic training in 1960. Gerry knew Chuck's sister, Virginia, and they met at church. In 1961, in the month of May, the newlyweds headed to California where they would enjoy Northern California in Monterey. Fort Ord was where he became a company clerk. He should have worked on tanks so life in the army was like being in jail to Chuck Reiland.

1962 is the year that the Reiland family moves back to Illinois and the first born child, Donna, flies on an airplane at the age of two weeks. 1963 Diane arrives and Chuck is working at an auto body shop in South Holland, Illinois. 1965 along comes Dan and in 1967 Denise.

In 1971 the Reiland family journeys to Napa, California and Chuck's dream becomes a reality. He opens Soscol Auto Body in 1972 and retired in 2006.

Kiwanis Club of Greater Napa was his pleasure for 40 years. His project was the East-West Football Classic and shared this honor with the Police Activities League with Mike Kollar. Year after year many families attended the All-Star Football Classic.

When Chuck had a stroke in 2018 his greatest challenge began. This stroke left him unable to walk or talk, but he always had his sense of humor. He entertained everyone with "big eyes" and occasionally a roar of laughter.

Every member of his family will treasure the man that lived the way that he believed- God, family and his work.

Chuck passed on January 3rd with his children present, loving him in to heaven.

He is survived by his wife, Gerry Reiland; his children Donna (John) Lickley, Diane (Brian) Dixon, Dan (Irene) Reiland, and Denise Reiland. He is also survived by his grandchildren; Andrew, Lynette and Dalton, sister Virginia Banks and Don Reiland in Illinois and Indiana.

He was predeceased by his grandson Michael.

In lieu of flowers please donate to St. Thomas Church, 2725 Elm St, Napa, CA 94558, or Collabria Care, 414 S. Jefferson Street, Napa, CA 94559.

# Cemetery

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## **Sacramento Valley National Cemetery**

5810 Midway Rd.

Dixon, CA, 94558

# Comments

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“ Chuck was my birthday mate April 11th, I met him and Gerry in the TGV train in France when they were visiting South of France in 2002 or thereabout, since then they have loved me as they would love their own child. When I came to the US, Chuck and Gerry came all the way to Houston to visit me for a weekend. He was such a kind and loving man. I cherish every memory. I know that you are resting in peace in the bosom of the Lord. Adieu Chuck.

**Olivia Ekoerikpe** - May 06, 2021 at 12:22 AM

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“ Dear Gerry & Family

We are all sorry to see of Chucks passing.  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Ron, Sherry, Ron & Sean Drapinski

**Sherry Drapinski** - January 25, 2021 at 07:56 PM

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“ Denise Reiland sent a virtual gift in memory of Charles A. Reiland



**Denise Reiland** - January 18, 2021 at 10:50 PM



“ I miss you A LOT!

**Denise** - May 03, 2021 at 04:21 PM

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“ Chuck, or as we called him, Junior was my big brother. I have very fond memories of working with my sister, Virginia for him on his tomato farm when we were kids. Junior and I also worked together for Ted Lau on his dairy farm. Our childhood was spent mostly working together and we had some good times during those days.

I remember a time when I was about 4 yrs. old I fell asleep on the road and a group of pigeons surrounded me. Junior and Virginia were supposed to be watching over me, but I fell behind when they ran away, so I laid down and fell asleep. Mr. Clinton saw all the pigeons around me and they wouldn't move, they were protecting me. I still wonder if Junior got in trouble for that one.

As grown ups we looked forward to our visits with Junior and Gerry when they would come in from California. We would always end up going back to the good 'ol days and reminisce. The pigeon story would always come up.

I will miss Junior (Chuck) for the rest of my life until I see him again. Your little brother, Don.

**Don Reiland** - January 17, 2021 at 02:24 PM

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“ Sending prayers to Chuck's family  
I worked for Chuck at Soscol Auto Body he was a great man and a mentor. I believe that I was the first guy they (Jim & Chuck) hired. He always treated me with respect and did his best to guide me. So many positive memories.  
I will always love that man!  
Respectfully  
George Slinsen  
aka  
Sammy, yes there is a story to go with this name  
Prayers for Chuck and his family

**George Slinsen** - January 14, 2021 at 12:41 PM

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“ Chuck was a kind, gentle, caring God-loving man for whom we had the greatest respect. Our sympathy to Gerry and the kids. You will be united with him again.  
John and Mary Ann Charlesworth

**John Charlesworth** - January 13, 2021 at 06:17 PM

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“ I was saddened to read of Chuck's passing on January 3. The old Exertec crew has lost another member. I will always remember Chuck's beautiful smile, and his "How Ya Doin'?" greetings. Haydee and I send our deepest condolences to Gerry and the family. We lost a good one, and he will be sorely missed

**Stephen Stanton** - January 13, 2021 at 12:49 PM

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“ Mr. Reiland was a kind and gentle soul. He served in various roles in my Boy Scout troop growing up in Napa. Chuck always put the scouts and the troop first, doing whatever he could to provide us with the resources and the guidance we needed. I have many fond memories of Chuck and Gerry opening their house to our troop for barbecues and other social occasions and events. Chuck often accompanied our troop to Camp Silverado in the summer. Thank you, Chuck, for your generous and loving dedication to our troop. Rest in peace.

**Brett F James** - January 12, 2021 at 12:43 PM