



## Conrad Lee Kolodziej

April 3, 2015

Conrad "Connie" Lee Kolodziej died peacefully in his sleep at home on April 3, 2015, in Napa, California after a long and courageous battle with cancer. He was surrounded by his loving wife Mary Lou, son Tom Rudstrom, daughter-in-law Lynette and grandsons Ryan, Robbie and Reece.

Connie was the son of Delbert and Hazel, brother of Delbert and Donald, uncle to Mark Richmond, Robin and Joey Podesta, and Mark, Joni and Jane Kolodziej; brother-in-law to Barbara Richmond and Doris Gilbertson. He was born in Charlyroi, Pennsylvania but lived his early life in Webster, PA, where his love of hunting, fishing and the outdoors began.

The family moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico and Vallejo, CA before settling in Napa. Connie realized a longtime ambition when he became and retired as a firefighter and EMT with the Napa State Hospital Fire Department. He was a lifetime member of the NRA and founding member of the Napa B.E.T.S. 4-Wheel Drive Club where he spent many a day and night on the Rubicon Trail driving his beloved CJ5 or Willys Jeep. Connie will be remembered for his patience, humor and love for his family, friends and fun. He was the first person to offer a hand to anyone in need and the last person awake at the campfire.

A visitation is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, April 9-10, 2015 at Claffey and Rota Funeral Home, 1975 Main Street in Napa from 2:00 to 7:00 pm. Friends and love ones are invited to a Celebration of Life barbeque on Saturday, April 18th between 1:00 and 5:00 pm at his home.

# Events

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**APR** **Visitation** 02:00PM - 07:00PM

**9**

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Claffey & Rota Funeral Home  
1975 Main Street, Napa, CA, US, 94559

**APR** **Visitation** 02:00PM - 07:00PM

**10**

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Claffey & Rota Funeral Home  
1975 Main Street, Napa, CA, US, 94559

# Comments

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“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



**Dave Toboni** - April 13, 2015 at 11:58 AM

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“ Mary Lou, my heartfelt sympathy to you and your family for your loss. I am so sorry.  
Debbie Solarez

**Debbie Solarez** - April 09, 2015 at 11:17 AM

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“ So sad to hear about Connie. I hope you are holding up ok. I think about you and Connie with great memories of the old days and will cherish those memories, there are so many! I plan to come to the party on the 18th, if I'm not held over, back at NSH. Let me know what I can bring, please and let me know if there is anything I can do for you. I mean it. Love from Nancy Murchison

**nancy murchison** - April 08, 2015 at 07:10 PM



“ Mary Lou,

Conrad was the consummate firefighter. In answering the bell, he was always calm, perceptive, and reliable. The decisions he made in the field were always sound. The sureness of his actions buoyed the confidence of those around him. I always felt that I was a better firefighter because of him. In his fight with cancer, we were all witness to the courageous battle Connie fought. None of us that knew him would have expected anything less. It was a tremendous privilege to know Connie, and even a greater honor to call him a friend. There is no way to prepare for a loss like this, but know that Connie touched the lives of many and we are all mourning his loss with you. None of us will forget him.

You're in our thoughts.

Scott Espinoza

**Scott Espinoza** - April 10, 2015 at 04:08 PM



“ Marry Lou,

Napa B.E.T.S. Lake Pillsbury run this weekend and thinking of Connie and you from trails in past. I will miss the once in a while chit chat with him talking about life and family things going on and such. I plan to be at his celebration of life on the 18th.

Dave Toboni

**Dave Toboni** - April 13, 2015 at 11:58 AM