



## Clay Kent Gregory

July 11, 1957 - February 1, 2023

Clay Kent Gregory

Age 65

Long-time Napa resident Clay Gregory passed away peacefully on February 1, 2023 from a form of Alzheimer's disease. He leaves behind his loving wife, Tersilla, his beloved basset hounds, 4 brothers and their wives, 7 nieces and nephews and of course "The Boys."

Born in Southern California and raised in Silicon Valley, Clay attended Monta Vista High School and San Jose State University. His early life was that of music, cars, and a paper route, like any other teenager of that era. He was quite the prankster.

After cutting his hair and obtaining his MBA, or was it the other way around, he obtained a high-tech marketing job in Silicon Valley which bored him. Following his passion for food and wine, he answered a Wall Street Journal ad for a marketing position at The Robert Mondavi Winery and the rest is history.

Clay held several senior positions in the wine industry. He worked his way up to become Vice President and General Manager of Robert Mondavi Napa Valley and then President at Jackson Family Wines. He was then recruited as President and CEO of Visit Napa Valley to establish the Napa Valley Tourism

Improvement District (NVTID) to ensure funding for marketing and promotion of the Napa Valley as a globally recognized world class destination. Clay became highly-respected throughout the wine industry and in many of the wine producing regions around the world.

With his wife, Tersilla, they created Inherit the Sheep winery whose vines surrounded their beautiful Napa Valley home (they inherited several sheep when they purchased the property).

Clay was active in his community, including serving as president of the Napa Valley Vintners. He also served as President of the Oakville Winegrowers, President of Napa Humane, and served on the Boards of Napa Chamber of Commerce, Auction Napa Valley, the US Travel Association and the Robert Mondavi Institute at UC Davis.

Clay loved playing golf and attending professional golf tournaments, including several visits to the Masters, the U.S. and British Opens and the Ryder Cup. In addition, he was a member at the Silverado Country Club. He was also a dedicated Giants fan.

Clay was eternally optimistic, a leader, a mentor, a foodie, an oenophile... “we miss you man” The Boys!

Donations in Clay’s memory can be made to Napa Humane <https://napahumane.org/>

A celebration of Clay’s life will be held at the Robert Mondavi Winery on Sunday, March 26 from 2 to 5pm.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAR **26**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (PT)

Robert Mondavi Winery  
7801 St Helena Hwy  
Oakville, CA 94562  
<https://robertmondaviwinery.com/>

# Tribute Wall

RG

“ Clay's family cherishes his memory and misses him every day. We thank you all for your prayers and respect for our privacy in this loss. We will be holding a private celebration of family members in Missouri in April. Clay's memory will never be forgotten. Love, Brother's Dan, Ron, Scott and Adam and their families.

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**Ron Gregory** - March 24, 2023 at 12:14 AM

TS

“ The Buniel Family, Tara, Terrence, Shawn purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Clay Kent Gregory.



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**The Buniel Family, Tara, Terrence, Shawn** - March 17, 2023 at 02:26 PM

RS

“ I worked with Clay at Four-Phase Systems, where we were office mates. Heading out to lunch with Clay was always a culinary treat. He introduced me to Thai food (the restaurant was in a bowling alley!) and sushi, for which I am forever grateful. Rest peacefully old friend.

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**Rob Simonds** - February 12, 2023 at 10:59 AM

SP

“ One of my fondest memories is of a vist from Uncle Clay and grandma. All of us went trout fishing at meramec state park in Missouri. I was lucky enough to ride in the bed of the truck the whole way down there and back (enclosed). We had an amazing picnic along with some great fishing. A memory I will always cherish.

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**Scott Payne** - February 11, 2023 at 12:40 AM

JP

“ We were in a science class together at Monta Vista. We sat next to each other in the back. We just laughed and giggled a lot. He was truly a highlight of my day that semester. Remembering him has always made me smile. Thanks for the good times Clay! God speed.

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**Janel (Anderson) Prince** - February 09, 2023 at 07:39 PM