



Dan Coker

March 1, 1949 - June 14, 2023

Dan Coker passed away on June 14, 2023, in Palm Springs, where he had lived for more than 12 years. He was born in Vallejo, California on March 1, 1949, and spent most of his life living in Napa, California. He also leaves behind a community of friends in Idyllwild, California, where he owned and loved a mobile home that became his summer retreat from the heat in Palm Springs.

Dan attended Silverado Junior High, and then graduated from Napa High School in 1967. After attending Napa Valley Community College for 2 years, he completed his BA at Sacramento State University, with a degree in Economics. He quickly decided he wanted to be a teacher, and after finishing his credential at Pacific Union College, he began teaching at Bel Air Elementary.

His teaching career would last over 30 years in numerous grades and positions in elementary and middle schools, culminating as Principal at Redwood Middle School, where he retired in 2003. He held a Real Estate license at Davidson and Bennett and continued to sell houses until about 7 years ago. He loved living in Napa, and in Palm Springs where he made many new friends and enjoyed retirement, becoming obsessed with walking both in the mountains and at Prescott Preserve behind his home. He would challenge others to post their daily steps and most gave up competing with him as he posted his daily 10,000, 12,000 or up to 20,000 steps a day.

Dan married Sharon Coker (Aasheim) in 1971, and together they raised their daughter, Kristin, who is now residing in Seattle, Washington with her partner, Jared Baily, and his son John. Kristin was his greatest pride and joy. He often referred to his family as a “three-legged stool”, knowing that together they were more complete and solid than any one of them independently. Dan and Sharon separated in 1999 but remained the very best of friends. Kristin and Sharon were caring for him at the end of his life.

Dan’s family and friends meant everything to him. He loved them and they loved him, including his extended family of teachers, staff and kids, high school friends and

neighbors. He was loyal and generous, always the first to offer help to someone. Everyone who knew him got to experience his great sense of humor. He could be goofy and silly, but he was also steady and made things better by just walking into a room.

Dan was predeceased by his parents, John (Jack) and Elizabeth (Betty) Coker, and is survived by his sisters, Lorelee Brown (Larry) of Portland, Oregon and her family, and Margaret Strickler (Dan) of Park Rapids, Minnesota, and her family.

His family members and friends grieve together in the loss of this great guy who will be in our hearts forever. We will never forget Dan, who charmed us and cared for us deeply. He touched the lives of many, and we never expected to lose him this soon.

Contributions in Dan's name can be made to VOICES Youth Programs in Napa, www.onthemoovebayarea.org

A gathering to remember Dan will be held Friday, August 25th from 4:30-7:00pm at the di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art, 5200 Carneros Highway, Napa. Please meet in the parking lot for a short shuttle ride to The Olive Grove <https://www.dirosaart.org/about/galleries-and-grounds/>

If you would need parking accommodation closer to the Grove, please contact Sharon Coker for information.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG **25**. 4:30 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art

5200 Sonoma Hwy

Napa, CA 94559

<https://www.dirosaart.org/>

Tribute Wall

SS

“ I worked with Dan at Bel Aire many years ago. Always a delight and fun to be around.

Sandy Silveira - September 10, 2023 at 10:46 PM

KO

“ I met Dan in High School along with Sharon, and a group of great friends. We spent countless weekends at the coast as a group, good or bad weather. Dan's great sense of humor was contagious. I was Sharon's maid of honor at their wedding, and joined in the celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary. Dan and Sharon surprised me at my 50th birthday party in Eugene, that was a treat. Whenever I was in Palm Springs I would try and meet up with Dan for lunch at his favorite restaurant, Escena. This clever, funny, smart, and sweet man will be missed by all that knew him. It was a pleasure to call you a friend Dan, farewell. Kathy Ouimet

kathy ouimet - August 21, 2023 at 03:04 PM

JE

“ Dan, is and always will be my best friend, since Kindergarten. Our friendship spanned close to 69 years. We were college roommates and I was Best man in Dan and Sharon's wedding and a year and a day later, Dan was Best man in my marriage to Jeannine. My memories of Dan are voluminous and amazing. We had so many exciting journey's over a life span covering close to 7 decades. A part of Dan is and will always be in my heart and soul. Kristin and Sharon, Dan always talked to me about how much he loved and admired both of you. Thank you both for your love and devotion to Dan and for being with him, everyday, before he left us. I pray for both of you, Kristin and Sharon, as well as for Dan's family and friends that God will bring all of us peace and comfort going forward. I know at a time like this, we all process not having Dan with us in different ways, but I know Dan would want us to celebrate our love for him by gathering and having a party, to share our memories of a great father, husband, family member and friend. I will also say this, Dan knew how to party!! Finally, Sharon, thank you for blessing me with the visit that you set up for Dan, you and me, the week before Dan moved on. I will always be grateful to you, Sharon. Dan, my dear great friend, I love you and thank you for being a significant part of my life, as well as for blessing me with so many memories of our exciting journey's together. As a believer, I look forward to our journey and adventures continuing. Until then, I'll just say "See You Later", Dan, Love, Jim

Jim Ewing - August 17, 2023 at 03:29 PM

SB

“ Dan was the best neighbor we could ever hope for. Generous, friendly, always there with a fun idea for a dinner party or gathering at his place. Kind laughter & a sly, outrageous humor were his most charming attributes. From our balcony we could hear him consumed with laughter watching one of his Japanese TV game shows in the evenings. And then there were his constantly evolving cars in the driveway. Dan made our lives richer in so many ways.

Sherry & Joel Breitigam - August 16, 2023 at 02:03 PM



“ Mr Coker was my 4th grade teacher at Pueblo Vista. I had the biggest crush on him I remember writing a report about him and his turquoise blue eyes. He was a great teacher and will be missed. Shari Taylor Singletary

Shari Lynn Taylor - August 15, 2023 at 11:08 AM

AS

“ My memories of Dan were when I was young and I would hang out at his house with my cousin, Kristin. Dan was always laughing and cracking jokes. He was warm in a way that made people feel joy to be around him. I remember what a good dad he was and what a good man he was. While I truly wish he had been in this world longer, I'm and grateful that he had people in his life that knew him well loved him deeply. I send my condolences to his friends and family.

Amy Stewart - August 14, 2023 at 07:26 PM

SA

“ So hard to believe he's gone. It was obvious he loved life and family. And he loved teaching. But he also enjoyed buying and selling, notably cars and houses. Sharon once told me she never knew what car she'd be driving next.

Steve Aasheim - August 14, 2023 at 12:11 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dan Coker.



August 12, 2023 at 07:24 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dan Coker.

August 12, 2023 at 07:24 PM

BP

“ Mr. Coker was an understanding, funny, and thoughtful teacher who I will miss from my days in fifth grade at Alta Heights. I will miss him. Thank you for being a part of my life.

Ben Pastcan - August 12, 2023 at 07:16 PM

JF

“ Mr. Coker was my history teacher in 97-98 at Redwood. Its moments like this that you realize what kind of an impact a teacher had on you, as I hardly remember any of my teachers from Redwood 25 years ago, but I remember Mr. Coker. Looking back now as an adult, I can tell he had a passion for teaching, and that passion is why I'm able to recall his teachings all these years later. Condolences to his family.

Josh F - August 12, 2023 at 01:04 PM

GH

“ I met Dan in 10th grade and he has been a part of my life ever since. He was an inspiration for many and a friend to all. I have wonderful memories of him and will never forget what a fun and loyal friend he was to me. I will miss him more than words can express.

George Hoyer

George Hoyer - August 11, 2023 at 04:28 PM