



George Abate

February 27, 1920 - June 6, 2016

George Abate passed away unexpectedly after a short illness on June 6, 2016. George was born in Napa on February 27, 1920 to Domenico and Maria Abate, both immigrants from Italy. Raised in Napa, he started school with English as his second language. Following graduation from Napa High School, he worked for Napa Lumber Company as a draftsman drawing house plans. It was there he met his future wife, Jean, who was working as their secretary. With the outbreak of World War II, he was drafted and spent the next four years in the Armed Services. Initially stationed in Los Angeles at Army Headquarters working in Mapping Operations., he was later sent to Engineering School in North Carolina and ultimately shipped overseas to the Philippines. While he was on leave in 1944, he and Jean were married in Reno, Nevada.

After discharge from the Army, he joined the staff of Napa County Assessor Samuel L. Webber. In 1950, he was appointed City Assessor for the City of Napa and held that position until 1956 when he returned to county staff as Assistant to Napa County Assessor W. R. Johnson, When Johnson announced he would not seek reelection in 1962, George sought the position and was elected County Assessor. He served six four-year terms in that position, facing opposition only once- the last term which he won by a landslide. He officially retired January 5, 1987.

He played an important role in educating the public about the consequences of California Assembly Bill 80 which increased the assessed value of agriculture properties throughout California. The information provided by him was a key factor in the planning Commission and Board of Supervisors decision to create the Agricultural Preserve in 1968/ He was present at the meeting and public hearings, addressing concerns and questions regarding its impact on land values.

Throughout his career. He was active with the California Assessor's Association. He served four terms as the President of the Bay Area Assessor's Association, served on the Executive, Legislative, and Standards Committees of the California Assessor's Associations, and was an active member of the International Association of Assessing Officers.

During the 1960's, he and Jean built a cabin at Cobb mountain where they enjoyed spending weekends and vacations. They moved to the country in the 1970's and quickly

adjusted to ranch living, He was active in many local organizations and as of late particularly enjoyed the Native Sons First Friday Luncheon. With a big smile and a sense of humor, when will be greatly missed.

George was predeceased by his mother and father; his two sisters, Angelina and Anna; by his wife, Jean (2013). He is survived by his daughter, Barbara; and an extended family of cousins and very good friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions be made in his memory to the charity of the donor's choice.

Viewing will be at Claffey & Rota Funeral Home, Sunday, June 12, 2016 from 1pm to 5pm.

A funeral Mass will be held at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church on Monday, June 13, 2016 at 10:30am.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **12.** 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (PT)

Claffey and Rota Funeral Home
1975 Main Street
Napa, CA 94559
(707) 224-5210
services@claffeyandrota.com
<http://www.claffeyandrota.com>

Mass

JUN **13.** 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (PT)

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church
2725 Elm Street
Napa, CA 94559

Tribute Wall



“ George Abate

September 29, 2022 at 04:54 PM



“ George Abate

September 29, 2022 at 02:55 PM



“ A fair and honest man....

Royce Basil - June 20, 2016 at 11:07 AM



“ *My favorite memory of George is of him ambling into my office in jeans and a workshirt, and dropping down into my side chair with a big grin. He was always smiling. We would sometimes have a little financial business to discuss, then veer off into the economy, taxes, animal husbandry, you name it. George had a wide field of vision and had seen and been many places in his 96 years. We talked about the early years in Napa, yearning to become an architect until World War II reshuffled his priorities and brought him back to serve his hometown, find a bride, and delight in his baby girl. He loved the quiet of the country; the everyday chores of feeding the animals in the morning, checking on the horses. I talked to him frequently in the morning and he would enthusiastically declare himself "ready for the day". I never heard him criticize anyone, and he frequently praised those he'd worked with over the years, modestly omitting his contributions. My hope is to maintain my bearings as I age, showing the grace and modesty that came so easily to George. Rest in peace! Bill Lockhart*

Bill Lockhart - June 14, 2016 at 11:18 AM

AA

“ *BARBARA AND FAMILY.
GEORGE WAS A GREAT MAN AND HIS MEMORY WILL NEVER FADE
BECAUSE OF ALL THE LIVES HE
TOUCHED IN SUCH A POSITIVE WAY. GEORGE AND I SPENT MANY HOURS
TOGETHER AT ASSESSOR
MEETINGS, HE HAD A KEEN INSIGHT ON HOW TO SOLVE PROBLEMS AND
IMPLEMENT NEW PROGRAMS.
GEORGE WILL BE DEEPLY MISSED BY ALL BUT WILL BE CONSOLED WITH
ALL THE FOND MEMORIES WE ALL HAVE OF HIM. MAY THOSE CHERISHED
THOUGHTS WARM OUR HEARTS FOR YEARS TO COME.
OUR LOVE AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU ALL.
IN SYMPATHY, AL & MARIAN CARLSON*

AL CARLSON, RET ASSESSOR - June 13, 2016 at 01:15 PM

VB

“ *Dear Barbara,
Just want to say how sorry I am to hear of the passing of your Dad. I thought the
world of him. He was a wonderful man to work for. I will never forget his big
friendly smile.*

*When I was volunteering at Queen of the Valley gift shop, I would see him
walking by with a meal for himself and your mom, from the Queens cafeteria.*

I'll miss seeing him around town.

Vicki Bullock

Vicki Bullock - June 13, 2016 at 10:03 AM

LB

“ *Barbara, Kathy and I were saddened to hear of George's passing. I went to work
for your father in July 1969 and I can say it was my honor to work for George
Abate. When the first Friday lunches came around it was always good to have
your dad there. He always had a big smile and a hardy handshake for me. He
would call me "son" it made me feel special. I will truly miss him.
Nobody knows how another feels when one loses a parent, but I have a good
idea how you feel as I lost my mother in May. We can hope that time will help
heal. Our memories will last forever.
Kathy and I wish you all the best in your time of sorrow.*

Love, Lance & Kathy Bonds

Lance Bonds - June 12, 2016 at 11:24 PM

VJ

“ *I hope you are at peace and thank you for all your advice- I will always remember.*



Valerie Jones - June 12, 2016 at 05:39 PM

LS

“ *Dear Barbara --*

I'm so sorry to hear of the passing of your Dad. I'll always remember him out in the street on warm summer nights, pulling our wagons, pushing scooters, and playing baseball with us kids. He always had a big smile, a kind word, and an easy laugh. A wonderful man. My condolences to you.

Linda (Rath) Scott

Linda Scott - June 11, 2016 at 09:52 PM