



## John Michael "Mike" Fitzgerald

April 30, 1940 - March 13, 2026

On March 13, 2026, the world lost a bright and joyful spirit when John “Mike” Michael Fitzgerald, 85, passed away in Napa, California. Born in San Pedro, Mike lived a life filled with movement, curiosity, and heart.

A proud United States Marine, Mike served three years as a Lance Corporal, carrying the discipline and pride of the Corps with him throughout his life. After his service, he worked as a warehouseman, driver, and equipment operator with the Teamsters — a career built on hard work and reliability.

But Mike was far more than his work. He was an adventurer on two wheels, riding his bicycle across the United States more than once and exploring Europe in depth. He loved Western dance, moving with the same energy and joy that he brought to every part of his life. He was a lover of history, always reading, always learning. And above all, he was someone who loved to make people laugh and smile — a man whose presence lifted the room.

Mike is survived by his daughter Dena Marie Arellanes, his son Michael Lee Fitzgerald, his grandchildren Christopher, Matthew, Nicholas, Kimberly, Callie, Cassidy, and Charles and his great-grandchildren Hazel, Nico, and Rylan. He is preceded in death by his grandson Michael Arellanes and his sister Pat Pitney, whom he now joins in peace.

He leaves behind a legacy of adventure, humor, and love — and a family who will forever carry his stories and his spirit.

<https://www.vlm.cem.va.gov/JOHNMICHAELFITZGERALD/ac65c5>



# Cemetery Details

## Riverside National Cemetery

22495 Van Buren Boulevard  
Riverside, CA 92518  
(951) 653-8417  
<https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/Riverside.asp>

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAY 9. 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM (PT)

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

## Reception

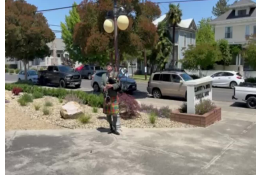
MAY 9. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (PT)

Napa Valley Yacht Club  
100 Riverside Street  
Napa, CA 94559

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Celebration of Life*



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**Claffey and Rota** - 4 hours ago