



Henry "Corky" Anderson, III

December 3, 1942 - February 23, 2019

Henry P. "Corky" Anderson, III, passed away on February 23, 2019 at Scripps Hospital in La Jolla, California. He was 76 years old.

He was born to Hank & Claudine Anderson and raised on a farm in West Tulare, therefore agriculture was in his blood. Corky graduated from Tulare Union High School and attended College of the Sequoias, and Fresno State where he played football. Corky came from a family of farmers and at 13 he started hauling hay with his cousin Bob Anderson. The business did so well he bought his first car at age 14.

Corky moved to Orland in the 60's after college where he met Ken Puryear, the two became good friends and lifelong business partners. After forming a partnership for Pioneer Nursery together they developed and patented three pistachio varieties and introduced the "California Pistachio" to the country. They later relocated the nursery to Delano, and then again to McFarland, CA. People thought they were crazy but look around pistachio trees are everywhere.

Corky devoted his life to fighting for California farmers and to the Pistachio industry. He and his wife Betty hosted numerous events to bring the attention of the plight of farmers in the valley and to give them voice. He was instrumental in bringing then Presidential Candidate Donald J. Trump to Tulare to have an open discussion about water and environmental issues.

For Corky one of the highlights of his year was his annual hunting trip to Colorado with the guys, not much hunting but a lot of good food and wine. Another highlight was hosting an annual Christmas party for his friends and family. He enjoyed playing golf, going deep sea fishing and gambling. He was always up for an adventure even gold mining and horse racing; he owned one horse named "Shelly's Career" he named after his daughter, the only problem was the horse was a gelding! He loved spending time with family and his many friends, some of the happiest times were spent barbequing in his backyard.

Corky was not one to talk about himself and his many accomplishments but he did many wonderful things for the community and the people he loved. He was a man of honor - true to his family and friends- true to his word. He lived his life and each day with enthusiasm and joy. He will truly be missed by all whose lives he touched.

Corky is survived by a family who loved him dearly; his wife of 30 years Betty Jean

Anderson and son Eric Harmon, Tulare; a daughter Shelly Anderson Bettencourt and her husband Roman and two grandsons Skyler and Hunter, Visalia; Brother Doug Anderson and his wife Marcia, Tulare; Sister Debi Sue Mitchell and her husband Earl, Eagle, Idaho, Nieces; Kristy (Frans) Bloom, Stephanie Hammock and Jill (Phillip) Benedetti, Nephews; Patrick Mares (Christine), Jeff Anderson, Earl J. "Mitch" Mitchell and his Pioneer Nursery business partner of over 50 years Ken Puryear.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to Kevin Blackwell and the office staff at Pioneer Nursery.

Celebration of Life will be held Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 11:00 AM at the International Agriculture Center, Heritage Complex 4500 South Laspina Street, Tulare, CA.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the American Heart Association, Wounded Warriors or the charity of your choosing.

A memorial tribute can be offered by logging onto www.salseranddillard.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 20. 11:00 AM (PT)

International Agri-Center
4500 S Laspina St
Tulare, CA 93274

Tribute Wall

JC

“ *Condolences to Betty and the extended Anderson Family,*

Corky was an opponent in Little League and a Teammate in High School we being on the Football and Baseball Teams together.

We were friends and remained in touch through the years.

Corky advised my Brother before he planted Pistachio's, he WITCHED a well for my Father and in 2012 one for my Brother.

Corky was a MAN of many talents but you never knew because he never spoke of his accomplishments.

Corky had wonderful Parents in Hank and Claudine and a wonderful Uncle and Aunt in Dick and Lesta Anderson.

His cousin Bob Anderson was my roommate at Cal Poly where we played football together.

I believe this "Anderson Family" is one of the most respected in the Central Valley and Corky Anderson is one of the reasons why!

Sincerely, Jack(1960) and Lenore Clark

Jack Clark - March 19, 2019 at 05:59 PM

BS

“ *I was introduced to Corky by Jeff Yurosek when I came to the Valley in the early '80's from Boston. Although we had some differences, Corky and Ken were always available for encouragement and advice. Corky can clearly be called a founder of the California pistachio industry. I consider him to be a California original and I mourn his passing. Sincerely,*

Bert Steir

The Wonderful Company

Bert Steir - March 18, 2019 at 03:41 PM

RW

“ *I was deeply saddened to hear of Corky's passing. We were friends for over 60 yrs..Baseball teammates, golfing buddies, "partners " in many,many good times.My friendship with him and all his family are among the memories that I will cherish forever. My sympathy goes out to Betty and all the family. Ray Ware*

Ray Ware - March 15, 2019 at 02:38 PM

RG

“ I played on 4 baseball teams with Corky. Babe Ruth League, 2 High school teams and American Legion. He was a good pitcher and was friends with everyone. He was cool under pressure and could get guys out when needed. His dad was also a strong supporter of those teams and I was able to go places because Hank helped with the expenses when the budgets ran short. My condolences to his family and Bob his cousin especially whom I played with also. Tulare has lost a lifelong supporter of their economy. Bob Gayler TUHS 1959

Robert Gayler - March 13, 2019 at 08:38 PM

BA

“ Betty, I was so sorry to hear of Corky's passing. I always enjoyed the Christmas parties you had every year. You were such wonderful hosts! Please extend my deepest sympathies to Shelley, Doug, and Debbie and all of the Anderson family. God bless you,

Beverly Aldaco

Beverly Aldaco - March 02, 2019 at 05:17 PM