



## Johnny M. Souza

August 22, 1936 - May 21, 2023

A life that revolved around cows is one way to describe John M Souza. Born in Atresia to parents John and Elvera, he learned to work on the family dairy. While attending Excelsior High School he met the woman that would later become his wife of 67 years after he pushed a friend out of the way to sit next to her at the Clock Drive-In. As newlyweds, John and Mary lived on the family dairy in Chino. Soon he became the proud father to 5 children; Debbie Souza of Turlock, Diane Lourenco (Terry) of Jerome, Idaho, Doreen King (Jack) of Turlock, John Souza (Rena) of Modesto, and Dan Souza (Lorraine) of Turlock. He raised his children on the dairy instilling in them a strong work ethic and love of dairy. Loading up the family in his van, for family trips to Pismo, Solvang or the Knott's Berry Farm made him beam with pride! There was never a dull moment always having fun his iconic cigar he chewed in one hand. Later in life, he retired from dairying and began hauling cattle sharing tales of his travels, and later starting a feed business, Western Commodities. As his family expanded, he fulfilled his role as Voo (grandpa), teaching his many grandchildren the importance of the Bible, the value of hard work, and the love of poker, even if that meant losing your lunch money. John coined the term, "I'm suckin hind tit" when his poker hand wasn't a good one, an ode to his lifelong love of cows. In recent years, he could be found taking in a good football game or western with the family cats nearby. John leaves behind his wife, who through the highs and lows of life, has stood as a steadfast pillar of support and love for her husband, 5 children and many grandchildren and

great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents and beloved son-in-law Joe. A service will be held at Turlock Funeral Home on June 8th at 1:00 p.m.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUN 8. 1:00 PM (PT)

Turlock Funeral Home  
425 North Soderquist Road  
Turlock, CA 95381  
(209) 632-9111  
<https://turlockfuneralhome.com>