



## Joseph "Joe" Fagundes

November 25, 1943 - December 9, 2023

Joseph "Joe" Machado Fagundes, IV was born November 25, 1943 at Mercy Hospital in Merced to parents Joe and Virginia Fagundes, who were residents of Cressey. A walk down memory lane in the storied life of Joe Fagundes begins with a sick young boy who was never thought to live past the age of five. Equipped with a resilient nature, strong will, and an innate sense of humor, young Joseph beat the odds. Just as the nurses and doctors worked to nourish him back to health, he spent his life nurturing things and people to their full potential. Whether it was lending a sympathetic ear to a friend, saving a rusty antique vehicle from the dump, participating in efforts to help sick children, or coaching Turlock youth in football and life skills, Joe worked hard to shape the potential of all things near and dear. Modesty prevented him from admitting he was more than a just regular "Joe." However, those who knew him and loved him would say he was one of a kind, and there will never be another "Joe" like Joe Fagundes.

If family is the foundation that a great man stands upon, Joe had the best. He often said that if he were "half the man" his father, Joe Sr., was, then he would be a "good man." Joe's parents taught him the values that propelled his actions throughout his life, specifically the love of family and the importance of service to others and to his community.

In 1953, at the age of 10, Joe moved to Turlock, and never left. As a boy, he

lived on his parents' dairy at 3937 S. Kilroy Rd. He attended 3rd through 8th grade at rural Tegner Elementary School, and always kept in touch with many of his classmates. During his elementary school years at Tegner, the rural schools in Turlock joined to form the Chatom Union School District. Joe was always proud to have been a part of the first Chatom School graduating class. Joe loved the social aspect of school and is often remembered for his funny jokes and antics.

Joe truly enjoyed his years at Turlock High School from 1959-1963, and treasured his memories of participating in track and football, which included being coached by Joe Debely, Les Ratzlaff, and Don Odishoo. Joe's memories were also highlighted by having personally known Principal John H. Pitman, as he was a regular visitor to his office! Joe continued to support the Turlock Bulldogs by hardly ever missing a Friday night football game, by serving on the selection committee to induct former athletes to the Turlock High School Hall of Fame, and by being a member of the Turlock Quarterback Club. Since high school graduation, Joe also served on the Class of '63 reunion committees several times.

Joe's service to the Turlock community began during his high school years, when he became a member of the Ports Auto Club, which held fundraisers to help sick children.

After high school, Joe attended barber school and became a licensed barber in 1964. During this time, Joe was also a member of the Turlock JC's (Turlock Junior Chamber of Commerce). Joe barbered in Turlock until being drafted into the U.S. Army in 1966. Joe served in Vietnam in 1967-68 in the First Infantry Division, notably referred to as "The Big Red One." Joe received an Army Commendation Medal and was awarded the Bronze Star.

Upon his honorable discharge from the army, Joe returned to Turlock in 1968

and resumed his occupation as a barber until 1971, when Joe made a change and started a dairy business at his folk's property on Kilroy Road. In 1973, Joe became a dairy broker, which was his occupation for 47 years until his retirement in 2020.

In the early 1980s, Joe's love of community branched to Turlock Youth Football. Joe served TYF for 24 years, both as a director and a coach. In 2002, he received the Turlock Chamber of Commerce "Best of Turlock" Youth Involvement Award. In addition to serving the youth of TYF, Joe served as a director and a member of Turlock Historical Society. Joe was also one of the founding members of Fava Day, a charitable organization that raised money every May 9 for local children who were battling cancer from 1994-2019. In 2018, the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge recognized his contributions to Fava Day Kids by awarding him the George Washington Honor Medal.

Joe's hobbies through the years also included involvement in his community. For example, Joe was a first charter member of the Valley Tractor Pullers Association. In the early 1980s, Joe presided over their first meeting ever, which led to the creation of the organization. It must also be noted that Joe collected old rusty trucks, tractors and equipment from when he was a sophomore in high school until his passing. Four of his favorites made appearances under his business name, J.M. Fagundes and Associates, in local parades. Joe's parade vehicles include the "Horse Car," a 1922 Dodge, which has been a part of Turlock history and parades since the 1950s, a 1953 canned milk truck that was originally driven locally to pick up milk at dairies and deliver to creameries, a 1947 Dodge cab over, and a 1953 Dodge flat bed truck. Watching the excitement of children as they lined town streets waiting in anticipation for the bucking "Horse Car" was always a highlight for Joe. In the weeks preceding his passing, Joe was working hard to add to his parade fleet with a Grapes of Wrath style 1931 Model A that Joe baptized as the

“Fagundes Family Cayucos Flyer.”

Joe’s family always expected the unexpected when it came to Joe’s humor. Joe always enjoyed teasing his sister Diulinda, and she describes there was never a dull moment when they were growing-up. Joe’s wife, Regina, recalls a time when one of Joe’s wise cracks resulted in a playful mustard fight between the spouses. In their formative years, daughters Yvette and Theresa could count on Joe for stern advice peppered with witty analogies. The Fagundes girls had more nicknames than any kid in town. He was a fun daddy who wore a Cressey State Alumnus sweatshirt, and joked that he graduated with honors. Mundane moments turned into memories because he took the girls to the store wearing slippers, a tacky hat, and Halloween teeth or decided to order the family’s bulldog an ice-cream at the drive-through window. Once he was a VoVo, his granddaughters were in on the fun, too. Whether he was making up lyrics to songs or drawing silly pictures, they knew that when VoVo was around, belly-laughs followed. Although all grown up, when Therearen’tYou (Theresa) and Bisky (Yvette) needed their days brightened, they knew just who to call. It wouldn’t take long before Daddy would say something that made everything in the world okay again.

Joe’s extended family and huge cadre of friends were precious to him. He held old memories near and dear to his heart, and loved to tell stories from his youth. In the present day, Joe’s sense of humor and penchant for fun always created light-hearted moments that will be lasting memories for those who knew him. He always said, “Even in hard times, it’s important to chuckle.” Merry Christmas to that!

No, there was nothing regular about Joe. But it was the regular moments of everyday life that he enjoyed the most. If you were to ask Joe about his dream vacation, he would have told you that he did not dream of going anywhere. In fact, if offered a free trip to any destination or the promise of coffee at the local

restaurant with a long-time friend, he would have chosen time with a friend without hesitation. Turlock was Joe's happy place, and he saw no sense in leaving, when he was already as happy as could be. His family, his friends, and his precious community held the keys to his heart. That's no joke.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents, Virginia and Joe M. Fagundes, Sr. of Turlock. Joe is survived by his wife of 47 years, Regina, daughters Yvette Fagundes-Hall of Waterford, daughter Theresa Fagundes-Diener and husband, Justin, of Five Points, granddaughters Susannah Hall, Lillian Hall, and Rose Diener, as well as his sister Diulinda Daley and husband Jack of Surprise, Arizona. Joe also leaves behind many beloved nephews, nieces, great-nephews, great-nieces, cousins, and of course, an empire of rusty tractors, trucks and cherished relics of the past.

A visitation will be held from 3:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. on Thursday, December 28, 2023 followed by a Celebration of Life from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Turlock Funeral Home, 425 N. Soderquist Rd., Turlock, CA 95380 in the Main Chapel.

A funeral Mass will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, December 29, 2023 at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church, 2602 S. Walnut Rd., Turlock, CA 95380. Following the service, Joe will be laid to rest at Turlock Memorial Park.

In honor of Fava Day Kids, Joe requested that memorial contributions be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. You may visit [st.jude.org](http://st.jude.org) or mail donations to 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105

# Cemetery Details

## Turlock Memorial Park

575 N. Soderquist Rd.  
Turlock, CA 95380  
(209) 632-9111  
<http://turlockmemorialpark.com>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**DEC 28.** 3:00 PM - 5:45 PM (PT)

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

## Celebration of Life

**DEC 28.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (PT)

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

## Funeral Mass

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DEC **29**. 10:00 AM (PT)

Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church  
2602 South Walnut Road  
Turlock, CA

## Interment Following Funeral Mass

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DEC **29**. 11:00 AM (PT)

Turlock Memorial Park  
575 N Soderquist Rd  
Turlock, CA 95380-3749  
(209) 632-9111

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joseph "Joe" Fagundes.*



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December 28, 2023 at 02:26 PM



“ *Joe, was a heart of Gold, always wanting the best for everyone, he did not know strangers. Joe was so honest, sincere, warm, and Loved his family beyond measure!! I will miss him. He has left a indelible mark of goodness on everyone's heart and soul. Love you Joe!!*

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**Leonard Vandenburg** - December 28, 2023 at 02:25 PM



“ *Truly one of the kindest, most caring, generous, and funny people I have ever had the pleasure to call friend. He was a true friend and always so much fun to be around. The time and work he and his family and friends put into "Fava Day" every year to help the families of children struggling with cancer was so special, to so many. Joe will be missed by the entire community, but God has a very special new angel.*

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**Diane Miles** - December 27, 2023 at 08:12 PM

TC

“ The Ports Auto Club purchased the Reflections of Glory Wreath for the family of Joseph "Joe" Fagundes.



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**The Ports Auto Club** - December 24, 2023 at 08:56 PM

DM

“ Joe was a great guy and will always be a friend of mine. We went Turlock High together although I think he was a year ahead of me. Then we moved in separate directions, I went in the Navy and went to Barber College as well as other endeavors. I can reminder he cut my hair at Rays Barber shop. I drifted apart for several years building a career. Then in 1986 I got exposed to the sport of Tractor pulling and we became fast friends again until just recently. I also pulled Antique tractors with his Dad- Big Joe, another great and kind gentleman. Now you will hear about what a great story teller the younger Joe was...and a great jokester. Always in fun but you never knew if the story was quite true. I speak from great experience about FAVA day and how he hooked me on that one. The made up festival grew and grew and helped many families with children that had cancer. Joe and his crew raised thousands of dollars for the local charity. R.I.P "Fava King"

*Dave Mendonca*

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**Dave Mendonca** - December 21, 2023 at 11:27 PM

DJ

“ Joe was always there for us. After I lost my grandfather he would always stop by and check on me. He will be solely missed by my family.



Dianna Johnson - December 20, 2023 at 02:06 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph "Joe" Fagundes.



December 19, 2023 at 12:31 AM

AF

“ All our love... Marianne and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph "Joe" Fagundes.

All our love... Marianne and family - December 19, 2023 at 12:31 AM

WI

“ When I was a kid Joe and Stan Marchant would come to our house and sit around the kitchen table with my Dad and talk about the "old days" they would be laughing so hard that you could hear them down the block! I am sure that they are together again sitting around with a jug in the middle of the table laughing it up! Rest in peace, Joe!

William Bart Sargenti

William Bart Sargenti IV - December 17, 2023 at 04:50 PM

SL

“ Sherrill L. planted a grove of 10 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph "Joe" Fagundes.

Sherrill L. - December 15, 2023 at 06:09 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph "Joe" Fagundes.



December 15, 2023 at 01:03 PM

LT

“ Larry and Debbie Thomas planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph "Joe" Fagundes.

Larry and Debbie Thomas - December 15, 2023 at 01:03 PM

ML

“ Tony and I send the deepest condolences upon Joe's homecoming. Joe was involved with my life since I was 15 years old. When Joe worked at Manjos, he and Danny Souza appointed themselves as my big brothers. I worked on the pizza side, and they always had to approve of my dates. Joe approved Tony, who became my husband. Joe and my husband had a history also. Joe bought Tony's Dads old milk can loader, and fixed it up. Joe was generous to a fault, always giving hands up, and helping others to help themselves. My mother, Margaret Furtado, adored him, and they were good friends. This feels like a part of my childhood is gone. We saw Joe at Dan Casale's funeral, and we hugged hi and bye. I am so thankful that I saw him that day. They don't make him like him any longer. Our life was better for having him in it.



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**Melody Lema** - December 14, 2023 at 09:58 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph "Joe" Fagundes.



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December 14, 2023 at 01:51 PM

KS

“ Kristen S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph "Joe" Fagundes.

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**Kristen S.** - December 14, 2023 at 01:51 PM

RN

“ This saddens my heart. We visited so much with him at my Brother in law Robert (Bob) funeral. Joe was always full of jokes and stories. Joe is in heaven with all three Borba Boys that have passed. Robert, Donald and Rod this past March 2023. Heaven is a special place with all of them. Joe thank you for being such a Good friend to Rod and I. God Bless you and your family.

Rodney Norba - December 14, 2023 at 03:43 AM

JN

“ He will forever be Coach Joe to me. He was a great mentor on the football field and I will never forget the lessons he taught us about sportsmanship and pride. And who could forget Fava Day??? I'll miss seeing you at the THS games, Coach.

Jack Newell - December 13, 2023 at 03:24 PM

FS

“ Frank & Susan Silva purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Joseph "Joe" Fagundes.



Frank & Susan Silva - December 13, 2023 at 02:47 PM

FS

“ Frank & Susan Silva planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph "Joe" Fagundes.

Frank & Susan Silva - December 13, 2023 at 02:47 PM

ST

“ Joe was a one-of-a kind man who loved life, his family, his friends, and his City of Turlock. Meeting Joe 20 years ago was one of the best things that happened to us. Be blessed so many people in so many ways. Stephanie and Gerald Telles

Stephanie Telles - December 13, 2023 at 12:05 PM

CM

“ Joe always said, “ in life you will have many friends, but only a handful that you can count on”. He was that kind of friend to John and me since we were all teens. His funny stories and laughter will be missed forever.  
Our condolences to Gina and his girls.  
Connie Mello and family

connie mello - December 13, 2023 at 11:42 AM

CM

“ Joe was “Mr. Turlock”. He was loved by many of us. He was so special, silly and full of stories ALL THE TIME! He was the Best Friend, Best Man and so many of us will miss his storytelling forever. The Joker 🙏❤️👍

Carol McRoberts - December 13, 2023 at 11:06 AM

JC

“ Such a kind hearted man, He would invite you in and you would stumble out of his "adega" you will be missed very much Joe!

Jason Castro - December 13, 2023 at 08:56 AM

MD

“ sorry to hear about Joe,s passing a great man and a friend many may he rest in peace.

Manuel & Celeste Drumonde - December 13, 2023 at 12:40 AM