



Leonel Mendonca

December 13, 1940 - September 27, 2012

Leonel Silva Mendonca, 71, of Hilmar passed away September 27, 2012 surrounded by his family at Alexander Cohen Hospice House in Hughson after a 14 month battle with colon and liver cancer.

He was born in Feteira, Terceira, Azores and was the oldest of 11 children born to Francisco and Delmida Mendonca. He came to the United States with his parents and siblings arriving on April 11, 1957. He worked as a dairy milker and farmer with his family throughout Central/Northern California from 1957 to 1964. He married Rosemary Ann Deniz on October 31, 1964 in Orland. He was a dairy milker from 1964 to 1973. He moved to Ceres in 1969 and then to Hilmar in 1974 where he resided in the same home until his passing. He was employed by Foster Farms for 39 years (Aug. 19, 1973-Sept. 7, 2012) of which he was a truck driver for the last 30 years.

He married Nelda Alice Terras on April 8, 2000. He was a member of Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Hilmar, Y.M.I. #44 of Hilmar, P.F.S.A., Our Lady of Miracles Society of Gustine and Our Lady of Thornton.

He is survived by his Wife: Nelda A. Mendonca of Hilmar; Children: Shirley Vierra and her husband Greg of Stevinson, Michael Mendonca of Turlock, Darlene Ingersoll and her husband Dale of Turlock, Leroy Mendonca and his wife Tina of Merced, David Mendonca of Turlock, Daniel Mendonca and his wife Monika of Turlock; Step-sons: Paul Terras of Chowchilla, Joseph Terras and his wife Melissa of Turlock; 5 grandchildren and 8 step-grandchildren; Siblings: La-Salette Pereira of Waterford, Norbert Mendonca, Sr. of El Nido,

Eliseu Mendonca, Sr. of Crows Landing, Fatima Mancebo of Chowchilla, Joe Mendonca of Modesto, Delmira Cuaresma of Hayward, Carmina Pacheco of Hilmar, Ermelinda Mendonca of Crows Landing, Frank Mendonca of Crows Landing and John Mendonca of Crows Landing.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Rosemary A. Mendonca (1995) and his parents, Delmida S. Mendonca (2001), Francisco S. Mendonca (2003).

He enjoyed Portuguese Festas, Dances and Bullfights. His travels took him to Mexico, Hawaii, Alaska, Canada, New Orleans and the Bahamas. However, his most memorable trip was in 2007 to the Azores where he was able to visit his birthplace and homeland after 50 years. He was a devoted loving husband, father, grandfather and brother. He will be missed.

Visitation will begin at 4:00 p.m. followed by a recitation of the Rosary at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 4, at Turlock Funeral Home, 425 N. Soderquist Rd. Turlock. A mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 5, at Holy Rosary Catholic Church, 8471 Cypress Street, Hilmar. Entombment will follow at the Chapel of the Memories Mausoleum at Turlock Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in his name to: Holy Rosary Building Fund, P.O. Box 429, Hilmar, CA 95324 or Alexander Cohen Hospice House, 2201 Euclid Avenue, Hughson, CA 95326.

Tribute Wall



“ *Leonel Mendonca*

January 28, 2023 at 09:01 AM