



## Michael Edward Ducey

August 31, 1943 - March 19, 2020

Michael Ducey, 76, died at Turlock's Emanuel Medical Center on Thursday, March 19, 2020. A sixty-year-plus resident of Turlock, Mike was born in Berkeley, CA, the eldest of Edward O. Ducey and Catherine Lane Ducey's five children. Self-employed as a public accountant, Mike worked with small businesses, farmers, and individuals throughout the San Joaquin Valley for over fifty years, never advertising and never lacking clients.

Mike relished discussing ideas, especially ones of political and social consequence. As an active citizen and proud veteran, he took an abiding interest in local, state, and national politics --- often addressing issues and policymakers, both in person and in print, with common sense and a quick wit. Though reserved by inclination, he was a keen observer. Little escaped Mike. He read widely and deeply, followed the news even until his last days, and was known for his detailed memory whether that be of political figures' accomplishments and failings or baseball players' stats.

After graduation from Our Lady of Mercy High School, Merced, CA, in 1961, Mike attended Modesto Junior College. From 1965 to 69, he was stationed in Thailand where he served during the Vietnam Conflict as a sergeant in the United States Air Force. After military service, Mike graduated from California State University, Fresno. Proud of his military service, he always honored those who had served, recognizing that service to one's country required

sacrifice.

An avid gardener and woodworker, Mike enjoyed design and detail. He made beautiful things ranging from cabinetry to flower beds to birdhouses. He closely followed many sports. A San Francisco 49'ers' and Yankees' fan since boyhood, and ever loyal, he named a succession of dogs 'Yogi' after Yogi Berra, with no regard to gender. In mid-life, he often fished, though he rarely spoke of his catch. Until poor health curtailed his activities, he spent much time on the golf course and acknowledged his handicap as, "a little better than decent."

Mike was his mother's stalwart support in her later years, caring for her with kindness and respect. In recent years and through his last illness, Mike's neighbors and friends rallied to his aid --- checking on him, tending to his garden, making house repairs --- much as he had done over the years for friends and neighbors. In particular, neighbor Kathryn Herriott Hunt has long been a good and loving friend to Mike; together, they enjoyed many walks and work projects.

Mike is predeceased by his parents, brother Daniel Ducey, and sister-in-law Marnelle Vieira-Ducey. He is survived by brother Denis Ducey of San Leandro, CA; sister-in-law Michelle Chenal-Ducey of Visalia, CA; sister Rosanne Ducey and brother-in-law Michael Murray of Litchfield, ME; brother Thomas Ducey and sister-in-law Julie Giles of Poway, CA; twelve nieces and nephews; and seventeen grandnieces and grandnephews. Three nephews were especially close to Mike: Eddie Vieira-Ducey of San Francisco, CA, and Nate Vieira-Ducey of Oakland, CA have much appreciated their Uncle Mike's laconic ways and quirky comments; and Jeremy Ducey of Denver, CO, cherished gardening, tool-shop talk, and computer trouble-shooting time with Mike.

In a private ceremony, Mike will be interred with military honors in San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery. Due to concerns about travel and social gatherings, a service and reception for family and friends celebrating Mike's life will be held at a later date.

The family recognizes and appreciates the outstanding care Mike received from VA nurses, doctors, and staffs at Palo Alto, Livermore, and Modesto.

Online condolences and remembrances are welcome at [www.turlockfuneralhome.com](http://www.turlockfuneralhome.com).

Those who would like to honor Mike's memory may donate online to the American Cancer Society at: [cancer.org](http://cancer.org).

# Cemetery Details

**San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery**

# Tribute Wall



“ *Michael Edward Ducey*

---

January 28, 2023 at 09:01 AM



“ *Mike was a part of our family for over 40 years; he felt more like an uncle than a family friend. Although I didn't see him often due to moving abroad in my late teens, he always made certain that he saw me when I was visiting my parents in Turlock. He was my dad's best friend, and I know how much he will be missed. He used to love discussing politics with my parents, playing golf with my dad before they both had health concerns, shopping with my mom at Lowe's for flowers/plants for his pots (both avid gardeners!) and I seem to remember Mike went on quite a few fishing trips with my dad in the 1970's. He was a gentle, kind and decent man who shall definitely leave a big void in our family. Please accept my deepest condolences on the loss of your dear brother.*

*Rebecca Hornby nee Tickel*

---

**Rebecca Hornby** - March 26, 2020 at 11:00 AM

LB

“ Hello, you all don't know me, but my grandfather was Yogi Berra and Michael's obituary popped up in my "Yogi Berra" Google alert, on account of the line, "A San Francisco 49'ers' and Yankees' fan since boyhood, and ever loyal, he named a succession of dogs 'Yogi' after Yogi Berra, with no regard to gender." It makes my heart happy that my grandfather touched - and continues to touch - the lives of so many people, so this made me smile, as no doubt Michael made all those who knew him smile over the course of his lifetime. With their love of sports, especially baseball and golf, and their service in the military, Michael and my Grampa Yogi actually have quite a bit in common. May they both rest in peace, and watch over us from the great ballfield in the sky. My condolences to all those who knew and loved Michael. - Lindsay Berra

---

**Lindsay Berra** - March 25, 2020 at 09:10 PM

PS

“ Even though we were relatively the same age, Mike was a father confessor, a lifeline in time of trouble, a voice of reason regarding my estimated taxes. I can still hear him saying, "Peggy, did you pay your estimated taxes?" Usually he just guessed no so I started paying them to please him and it really made life much easier for my family. Our chats ranged to many topics and although I only met with him once a year, I looked forward to his wit and wisdom. Once when we were discussing gardening he took me on a tour of his backyard. It was incredibly beautiful and it was evident how much hard work and love had gone into the endeavor. I felt privileged to witness just another part of Mike's life and love. I will miss him!!! He was quite a character and we need more of him in our world!!

---

**Peggy Sperry** - March 25, 2020 at 01:39 PM

MP

“ Sincere condolences at this sad time for your family. Thoughts and prayers to the entire Ducey family.

Sincerely,

Larry and Marlene Parkinson

---

**Marlene Parkinson** - March 24, 2020 at 07:00 PM

DA

“ We are sorry for your loss. We have only know Mike a few years as neighbors on Cahill. We will miss seeing him in his yard, tending to his beautiful flower pots. He was always chipper and I enjoyed seeing him walk by our big picture window many times over the last few years, Love, The Nelsons

---

**darla** - March 24, 2020 at 05:18 PM