



Richard Michael Chavez

March 4, 1959 - March 5, 2020

Richard Michael “Coach” Chavez, age 61, of Hilmar, formerly Merced, was called to be with our heavenly Father on March 5, 2020. He passed peacefully at home after a courageous battle with cancer. Richard was born March 4, 1959, to Joe and Lupe Chavez of Planada. He grew up in Planada, attended Our Lady of Mercy School in Merced, and graduated from Le Grand High School in 1978. As a youth, Richard was involved in Boy Scouts, where he made lifelong friendships. He was also involved in many sports, but baseball was his favorite. He continued to play baseball while he attended Merced Jr College and CSU Stanislaus in Turlock.

Richard’s passion was teaching and working with youth to show them their potential and cutting them no slack. He taught at Merced Union High School and with at risk youth at the Excell Center Boys Home in Turlock. One year, he took a group from the boy’s home and they completed a bicycle ride all the way to Oregon. Richard taught many years at Le Grand High School and was also Le Grand’s varsity baseball coach. His baseball team won the 1999 State D4 Sac-Joaquin Sectional. Go Bulldogs!

Richard worked his last 16 years at Friends Outside in Modesto as a Job Developer and instructor for ex-offenders. During this time, Richard also had his own company, RC Fencing, and was an umpire, officiating games after work and on weekends for girls’ high school softball and girls’ travel league

softball, ages 10 to 18, which he thoroughly enjoyed.

Richard loved all sports but mostly his Oakland A's. He attended many years of Spring Training games in Arizona and games in Oakland. He loved to tailgate before games with friends. He often called into The Grant Napear 1140 AM sports radio station on his drive home from work to voice his view on the discussion of the day. Richard kept up on all the local high school sports. He enjoyed being outdoors, BBQing, camping, fishing and sitting around a campfire visiting with family and friends. He looked forward to hanging out with the guys watching the Monday night football games at Ken's and the Le Grand Fireman's dinners. Family was especially important to Richard, attending holiday gatherings, birthdays, anniversaries and the yearly brothers' cabin trip to Lake Tahoe.

Richard is survived by the love of his life of 13 years, who he referred to as "his Gal", Gorette Machado; step-children, Kyle and Kira Machado of Hilmar; mother, Lupe Chavez of Merced; brothers, George (Jenise) Chavez of Tracy, CA and David Chavez of Fresno, CA; nieces, Christy Chavez of Fresno and Sarah Chavez (Daniel) of Tacoma, WA. He is preceded in death by his father, Joe Chavez, who passed away January 7, 2020.

A viewing will be held on Sunday, March 15, 2020, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., followed by the Rosary at 5:00 p.m., at Turlock Funeral Home, 425 N. Soderquist Rd., Turlock. To celebrate Richard's love of sports, wear your favorite sports jersey to the Rosary. The Oakland A's was his team. A Funeral Mass will be held on Monday, March 16, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 1200 Lyons Ave., Turlock. Following, Richard will be laid to rest at Turlock Memorial Park, 575 N. Soderquist Rd., Turlock.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to: Le Grand Softball, 12961 E. Le Grand Rd., Le Grand, CA 95333, or to a charity of your choice.

Cemetery Details

Turlock Memorial Park

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

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 15. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (PT)

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

Recitation of the Rosary

MAR 15. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (PT)

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

Funeral Mass

MAR **16**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (PT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
1200 Lyons Ave.
Turlock, CA

Interment Following Funeral Mass

MAR **16**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (PT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard Michael Chavez*

January 28, 2023 at 09:01 AM



“ *Mr.Chavez...so many memories and great conversations, of course the best ones were always about baseball. I will cherish those last few hours I had with you. You will forever have a special place in my heart and always be my fave!! Rest in peace Teach!!*



Melissa Salazar - March 13, 2020 at 05:39 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Richard Michael Chavez.*



March 13, 2020 at 05:31 PM



“ *Playing baseball for Coach I learned so much about playing the game, he was a stand up guy who I admired and will always remember the good times we shared on the baseball field at le grand! Till we meet again Coach 🙌*

jason kimbro - March 13, 2020 at 12:27 AM