



Richard Lee Cotta

December 26, 1943 - March 16, 2019

The family of Richard L. Cotta from Hughson, CA, is very sad to share the unexpected passing of their husband and father. Richard lived and loved life to the fullest throughout his 75 years. A man of strength, integrity and intellect, he made personal connections throughout the world. He served as a strong representative for local and national dairy and agricultural communities.

Richard received many awards throughout his career in the dairy industry, not the least of which were distinguished recognitions by the United States Congress, the California State Assembly, and the California State Senate. Though he was honored by these accolades, his greatest reward was that his life's work was devoted to something he truly loved.

Richard's impact on the dairy industry spread far and wide, beginning in his early childhood, having been raised on a dairy, to his education at Cal Poly, which led to a job classifying cattle in 49 of the 50 states. His success and expertise were widely recognized and eventually earned him the prestigious position of CEO of United Dairy Men of California, Western United Dairymen, San Joaquin Valley Dairymen, and ultimately CEO of California Dairies Inc. – one of the largest cooperatives in the nation.

Much sought after to serve on various industry and charitable boards, Richard gave willingly of his time and talent. Closest to his heart were the 4H Organization, the Father McElligott Sacred Heart School Foundation, and the Deans Advisory Council and Animal Science Development Board at UC Davis.

Richard's love for his work was only surpassed by his intense and loyal love for his family. Whether it was being the "big winner" at the family poker night, proudly stirring the polenta pot at Christmas Eve, enjoying time away in wine country, working in the orchards, or spending days at a time in nature hunting, the memories will forever be remembered and cherished. Richard is remembered and loved by many, among them his wife Jackie, his son Michael, his daughter Angela, his son-in-law Kit, his mother Helen, and his sister Beverly "Babe" Lucas and family Ben, Mitzi, Matt, Ronda, Kylee, and Bennett. He is preceded in death by one of his biggest role models, his father, Albino Cotta.

Richard's family and friends will honor all that he added to their lives with a visitation on Wednesday, March 20th, from 2 to 6 p.m. at Turlock Funeral Home, 425 N. Soderquist Rd., Turlock, followed by the rosary service at 7:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 1200 Lyons Ave., Turlock. A funeral mass will be held at 10 a.m. the following morning, Thursday, March 21st, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Private interment will take place at a later time. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that donations be made to the Father McElligott Sacred Heart School Foundation – P.O. Box 1254, Turlock, CA 95381.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **20**. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (PT)

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

Recitation of the Rosary

MAR **20**. 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM (PT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
1200 Lyons Ave.
Turlock, CA

Funeral Mass

MAR **21**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
1200 Lyons Ave
Turlock, CA 95380

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard Lee Cotta*

January 28, 2023 at 09:01 AM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Richard Lee Cotta.*



March 20, 2019 at 11:49 AM



“ *Sacred Garden Spray was purchased for the family of Richard Lee Cotta.*



March 19, 2019 at 08:43 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard Lee Cotta.*



March 19, 2019 at 08:02 PM

AD

“ *The family of AL DePratti sends their love and prayers.*



AL depratti - March 19, 2019 at 12:16 AM

JU

“ *We will always remember Richard for his warm and genuine smile along with his kindness to everyone. May he RIP and may the family treasure the many wonderful memories of him today, tomorrow and always.*



Steve & Julie Alvernaz

Julie - March 18, 2019 at 07:41 PM