



Tom Lee Watkins

July 19, 1944 - June 23, 2023

Tom Watkins, age 78, passed away on June 23, 2023 in Modesto, CA.

Thomas “Tom” Lee Watkins was born on July 19, 1944 in Omaha, NE to his parents, Paul and Wilma Watkins. He lived in Council Buff, IA for a short while before moving to Hilmar, CA with his family at the age of 3. He remained a resident of Hilmar until the time of his passing. He married the love of his life, Shirley Watkins, on June 20, 1964 in Reno, NV. Tom was a self-employed general contractor for over 25 years, working alongside both of his best friends. He then went on to join the carpenters union, where he worked for many years. When Tom semi-retired, he enjoyed working in the farming industry.

In his younger years, he enjoyed racing racecars, midget car racing, and riding motorcycles. As he grew older, he started building sand rails for his friends and himself where he enjoyed spending time in Pismo. He also enjoyed doing bodywork on cars. Tom loved growing pumpkins, each year trying to win the prize of largest pumpkin in California. He also spent several years pulling a tractor he built at tractor pulls. He loved to travel with his family. Tom was a hardworking and loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend. He is missed very deeply by all who knew him.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Wilma Watkins; his

brother, Bobby Watkins; and his grandson-in-law, Robbie Merrifield.

Tom is survived by his wife of 59 years, Shirley Watkins; his daughters, Tracy Watkins-Pombo (Stacy) and Tawnya (Darin) Baptista; his grandchildren, D'Nelle (Michael) Silveira, Kayli (Tony) Garcia, Kourtni Pombo, Samantha Perry (Bryce); his great-grandchildren, Liam Adams, Ryder Merrifield, Phoebe & Maverick Silveira, and TJ Garcia; his sister, Nancy Smith, and many nieces and nephews.

Please join the family for a funeral service at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, June 30, 2023 at Turlock Funeral Home, in the Main Chapel.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JUN **30**. 12:30 PM (PT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Tom Lee Watkins.*



June 29, 2023 at 04:08 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Tom Lee Watkins.*



June 28, 2023 at 09:16 PM



“ *Peter Rodriguez and Lani Dickinson purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Tom Lee Watkins.*



Peter Rodriguez and Lani Dickinson - June 28, 2023 at 07:54 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Tom Lee Watkins.*



June 28, 2023 at 07:07 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Tom Lee Watkins.*



June 28, 2023 at 01:35 PM



“ *Our Love, Skip & Joni Vierra purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Tom Lee Watkins.*



Our Love, Skip & Joni Vierra - June 27, 2023 at 06:03 PM



“ *I'm so sorry for y'all loss
Wish I could be there to hold your hand but know that I'm praying for you all and that the Lord has got you in the palm of His hands and those hands are much better than mine anyway praying for comfort and guidance along this journey
Love y'all the Smiths*

Lynette Smith - June 27, 2023 at 05:55 PM



We are so sorry for your loss Shirley, Tracy, Tawnia the grandchildren and the rest of the family. I will be praying for you all . Tommy will be missed by so many. My heart goes out to you all .. love you all the Pombo's

linda pombo - June 27, 2023 at 06:16 PM