



George "Richard" Silva

July 15, 1930 - September 8, 2022

Richard Silva was born July 15, 1930 at the Orr Ranch in Yreka and passed away on September 8 at the age of 92. He attended school in Grenada and Yreka and graduated from Yreka High School.

Richard married Orsola Salanti in 1952 and they were married for 71 years. They have two children, Patricia Salles (Jerry) and David Silva and three grandsons: Eric Fields, Jon Fields (Jennifer), David Silva (Samantha). They have many great grandchildren: Tyler (Angela), Jimmy, Cole (Janie), Archer, Jonas, Cohen, Wayden, Siobhan and Brynlee.

Richard was preceded in death by his mother, Bertille Mathews Silva, his sister Patricia, his father, George Henry Silva, and daughter-in-law, Beth Silva. Richard and Orsola started and managed Silva General Contractors and Silva Building and Development Inc. They developed land, residential and commercial developments and left a mark in Yreka and Siskiyou County. Richard and Orsola were presented the Citizens of the Year in 2003 for their community involvement.

After retirement Richard joined his love of the outdoors with photography and started a new business, Wilderness Photography. His photos won several awards and his spotted owl photo was presented to President Bush and was displayed in the White House. Richard was the official photographer for an archaeological project in Peru. Richard's award-winning photographs were selected for the covers of the 1981 and 1982 California State Hunting Regulations.

Richard was a competitive marksman and successfully competed in national competitions. He loved his dogs and to hunt, fish, travel, waterski and guide hunting trips in Montana and served in the California National Guard.

Richard's love of the outdoors, history and writing led him to become an expert in local history, mapping and trail research. He was a regular presenter at local, state and federal historical meetings. Richard wrote many books and articles researching and mapping immigrant trails throughout Utah, Nevada, Oregon and Northern California. Richard's and Orsola's research is sought after by governmental agencies and historians. Along with Orsola he set a standard for trail mapping that was adopted by OCTA and many State and Federal agencies striving for historic trails preservation and protection. They received many awards for their research and publications including the OCTA Lifetime Achievement Award and the State Of Jefferson Award For Outstanding Research. Richard enjoyed a wide network of friends met during historical projects.

Richard also worked with Native Americans to preserve their history. When traveling the Wind River Mountains in Wyoming with Orsola, they came across a monument for Sacagawea.

As an eagle is free when he flys
So am I free to fly
As an unbroken horse is
wild and free
So is my spirit
As a buffalo is generous and giving
So my heart is
generous and giving
So as you see the eagle fly, the horse run free
Remember
me

Tribute Wall



“ 2 files added to the album Obituary Wall



Girdner Funeral Chapel - April 27 at 03:54 PM

TW

“ Dick was a gentleman through and through. I remember going to the house to pick up Patty for a Junior Prom one year. I was nervous and slightly intimidated-this was Dick Silva's daughter! Patty was so cute and stunning in her dress. As her Mom put on the corsage, Dick helped me to relax with his soothing conversation, about buck hunting as I remember. After reminding us to be careful and safe, he bid us a nice evening.

Tip Wilmarth - October 17, 2022 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ When God said, "Let there be a Richard and Orsola Silva", He knew there would be a wonderful life, along with a great legacy of living well, wisdom and knowledge, giving hearts, joy even after sorrow, passion and drive to learn each day and leave behind a wealth of information. Available for anyone wishing to know more about the world around them. My heart goes out to Patty and David for the loss of your dad, and to the entire family. There may be an empty chair, but he's not gone far. He's right in your hearts. Richard is the kind of person that, if you met him only once, or knew him all of your life, you will remember him and his un-assuming way of teaching. May God bless and comfort all of you!!

Rebecca Phillipe - October 15, 2022 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ He done a lot of history which will be missed.

Ruth Hurd - October 14, 2022 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ Sorry for your loss Patty and David, God Bless 🙏

Susan Eastlick Dickison - October 14, 2022 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ So very sorry to hear of his passing, such a nice man.

Dorothy Peters - October 13, 2022 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ So sorry Patty and David. My Dad sure did like him.

Jill Torpin Hogun - October 13, 2022 at 12:00 AM

LK

“ RIP, thanks for all the wonderful heritage and history you left for us.
You will be greatly missed. Condolences to his family

Linda Keno - October 13, 2022 at 12:00 AM

HC

“ RIP Prayers

Helen Chiaratti - October 13, 2022 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ Richard Silva left us all an interesting and incredible legacy. Thank you!
My condolences and prayers are with the family and friends.

Liz Hockaday - October 13, 2022 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ *I will miss my history lessons:)*

Deborah Wilson - October 13, 2022 at 12:00 AM

EJ

“ *God bless*

Elieene Jones - October 13, 2022 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ *What a great legacy!*

Tat Chase - October 13, 2022 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ *George "Richard" Silva*

Girdner Funeral Chapel - October 13, 2022 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ *We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Girdner Funeral Chapel*

A Memorial Tree was planted for George "Richard" Silva - October 13, 2022 at 12:00 AM