



Joseph Paul Hurlimann

July 27, 1934 - October 6, 2025

Joe Hurlimann was born in Etna on July 27, 1934 and was a life long resident of Scott Valley. With the exception of the time he spent in the military and attended college, Joe spent his entire life in Scott Valley.

Joe was the son of Swiss immigrants and did not learn english until attending Etna Elementary School. Joe was active while attending Etna High School and participated in football, basketball, track, baseball and FFA. While playing running back on the football team he would often take hand-offs from the quarterback, Tony Hanna, who later became Joe's brother-in-law and lifelong friend. Joe held the County record in track for the 880 and played second base in baseball. While in FFA, Joe made many trips to the Cow Palace selling steers and pigs. One year at the Cow Palace he won the greased pig competition.

Following high school, Joe attended college at OTI in Klamath Falls studying auto mechanics and was also on the ski team while at OTI. Joe had a love for motorcycles and a motorcycle was his main source of transportation when going back and forth between home and college.

Joe's education served him well after getting drafted into the Army shortly after college. After military training at Fort Ord (CA), Fort Jackson (SC), and some time at Fort Dix (NJ), he finished out his two years of military service in Germany. While stationed at the Aschaffenburg Army base in West Germany he would visit cousins in Switzerland when he had the chance and was able to brush up on his Swiss.

After returning home from Germany and completing his military service, Joe found his sweetheart, Kathleen Johnson. Joe got to know Kathleen during conversations over the fence of neighboring ranches. Their relationship resulted in 51 years of marriage and four sons.

Joe spent the majority of his life working on the family ranch after taking over a portion of the ranch following the death of his father Ben. Joe was kind and appreciative to all those that worked for him on the ranch. Joe was a master at ranch math and had a gift for gab for those that visited the ranch. Joe never shied away from political discussions and had many conversations at the granary and through pickup windows. Joe was an authority on local genealogy and often explained family trees by describing who a person was off of.

Joe spent his final days at home with family, friends, and outstanding caregivers that were attentive to his every need.

Joe is survived by his sister Mary Ann Hanna, brother-in-law Tony Hanna, son John (Kellie) Hurlimann of Folsom, CA, son Luke (Wendy) of Scott Valley, son Larry (Cambria) of Burlington, WA, and son Ben (Lisa) of Eugene, OR. Joe's many grandchildren include; Alex and Kacie (Gavin) (John); Kaden (Angelee), Crawford, and Kalista (Luke); Delaney and Dawson (Larry); Dylan, Wyatt, and Vallory (Ben). Great grandchildren include; Wilder and Annabelle (Alex) and Hazel (Kacie). Joe also has numerous nieces, nephews, and in-laws. Joe is preceded in death by his wife Kathleen, mother Frieda, father Ben, and brother Ben Jr.

A memorial funeral Mass for Joe will be held at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Fort Jones on Friday October 24th at 1:30 PM. A graveside service and reception will follow the Mass. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to Madrone Hospice at 255 Collier Circle, Yreka CA 96097.

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Obituary Wall*



Girdner Funeral Chapel - April 27 at 03:19 PM

EG

“ We will miss seeing you in your side by side. Always a smile, a chat and a laugh. You will be missed. A very special man. Our deepest sympathy to the family.

Elizabeth Giacomelli - October 31, 2025 at 12:00 AM

WD

“ Such a privilege to have spent a brief moment in time with Joe. I felt honored to be a part of the care team and I felt warmly accepted by the family. 'Really????' is what Joe often said followed by 'I'll be darned!' especially when we spoke of my homeland, South Africa. These two phrases will always bring a smile. My Joe, rest now in the arms of Jesus. Sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and carers. May God be with us.

Wendy Duminy - October 23, 2025 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ I grew up on the Island. My dad, Elmer Holmes, worked with Joe's dad, Ben, a lot over the years. Dad and Ben were both talkers and story tellers.

"Ole" Ben was telling Dad about his boys one day and Dad always remembered what he said. "I raised good boys. That Ben is a hard worker but Joe, he is just like me, he will grow up to be a hell of a good man." He was so right.

Sharon Holmes Sanborn - October 11, 2025 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ My sincere condolences to Joe's family. All though the occasions were rare, I always enjoyed visiting with Joe. Rest in peace my friend.

Larry Maplesden - October 11, 2025 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Joe would always show up at the EUHS 50's reunions and made a point of looking for me. I loved talking & joking with him about he and I being related (I found some of his Swiss people living not far from my Swiss people in St. Gallen Canton). A great friend. Condolences to the family.

Joanne Smith Mello - October 11, 2025 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ Prayers for family!

Donna Griffin - October 10, 2025 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ My sincere condolences ☐

SusanLarry Henninger - October 10, 2025 at 12:00 AM

DJ

“ So grateful to know this great man, got to spend the last couple of years with him on Sunday visiting and praying with him .My deepest condolences to his family, rest in peace my brother you are with your father now. 🙏🙏

Dennis Jervan - October 10, 2025 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ I always enjoyed talking with Joe

Brian Frick - October 10, 2025 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Condolences. We are thinking of you.
Mark and Sherry Crawford

Mark Crawford - October 10, 2025 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ Condolences to Joe's big beautiful family. I had the pleasure of visiting with him a handful of times the past few years & enjoyed visiting with him very much.

Arlene Berwick - October 10, 2025 at 12:00 AM

TL

“ Condolences for your loss. He supplied I and few other horse people in Happy Camp with our yearly hay. We ty for having a faithful person we relied on and awesome friend. Ty respectfully,
Toni Luisi n 9 springs ranch n three others who appreciated you.

Toni Ann Luisi - October 10, 2025 at 12:00 AM

GJ

“ A wonderful neighbor ❤️🙏❤️👍❤️👍

Gail Jenner - October 10, 2025 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ ❤️

Debbie March - October 10, 2025 at 12:00 AM

AH

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

A Memorial Tree was planted for Joseph Paul Hurlimann - October 09, 2025 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ So GRATEFUL to have known him. Condolences to the Entire Family 🙌❤️🙏

KimLen Perreira - October 09, 2025 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ RIP. My deepest condolences to his family and friends. He will be very missed. 🙏🙏❤️❤️

Kristen Naylor - October 09, 2025 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ So very blessed to have known this special man.

Michol A Jervan - October 09, 2025 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Joe and Kathy were one of a kind people. They were always up for a visit, even if I just stopped in. I will be in Idaho on the 24th, but will be keeping Joe's family in my prayers. ❤️

Jan Corrigan - October 09, 2025 at 12:00 AM