



Nerva Malcolm "Tom" Hayden III

November 24, 1945 - October 28, 2025

Tom Hayden passed away at his home in Scott Valley on October 28, 2025. He was preceded in death by his father, Nerva Malcolm Hayden Jr.; his mother, Lois Lucille Hayden Tozier (Custer); and his wife, Marsha Hayden (Taylor).

A lifelong resident of Scott Valley, Tom was known as an exceptional cattle rancher and a devoted family man. He graduated from Etna High School with the Class of 1963 and earned a Bachelor of Science from Chico State. During his college years, Tom was active in the Young Farmers program and on the Livestock Judging Team. After completing his degree in Animal Science, Tom returned to Scott Valley to help on the family ranch. In 1972, he spent two months in Norway as a representative on the Rotary Group Study Exchange Team, an experience he cherished for the rest of his life.

Through his tenure as a cattleman, Tom served as Siskiyou Cattlemen's Association President, and in 1997, he was appointed to the California Beef Council by the CA Secretary of Agriculture, where he served for two terms. His calm and optimistic manner was one of Tom's most special qualities. The Tom Hayden Ranch was a place where everyone was welcome, and many learned from his wisdom, humor, and generosity.

Tom is survived by his daughter, Kory Hayden, and his grandson, Hayden Thomas Rogers; his sisters, Arleen Earnest and Sheridan Haley; and six beloved nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held at the Scott Valley Berean Church on Saturday,

November 15th at 11:00 a.m., followed by a procession to the Hayden Family Cemetery for burial, and a reception at the Berean Church.

Flowers for the service may be ordered through Twigs and Springs in Yreka.

Memorial contributions can be sent to the Scott Valley Pleasure Park Association, P.O. Box 337, Etna, CA 96027.

Tribute Wall



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Girdner Funeral Chapel - April 27 at 03:06 PM

WH

“ Tom was a wonderful neighbor and friend. We will always cherish the memories that we have of his kindness. I credit Tom for giving us four more years with my father n law Joe. Joe did not want to go to the hospital when he was very sick with covid, he must have been 88 at the time. Tom stopped by the house and told him to get in that ambulance and go to the hospital. Joe only went because Tom said to! He will be forever missed by the Hurlimann family.

Wendy Hurlimann - November 17, 2025 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Loving memories of "Tom" Hayden over the past 56 years of friendship. RIP with the Lord & those he loved in life, & peace to those he leaves behind.

Carolyn Pimentel and Family - November 15, 2025 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ I'll miss you, old friend. The class of 63 is getting smaller at a pretty fast rate. I'm sorry you left so soon. Rest peacefully.

Linda Starr Pieruccini

Linda Pieruccini - November 15, 2025 at 12:00 AM



LM

“ *I remember helping take cows to the mountains when cows were still welcome in the wilderness. I always enjoyed being around Tom and his family. Arleen and Sheridan, sorry for your loss. RIP my friend.*

Larry Maplesden - November 15, 2025 at 12:00 AM

EH

“ Dear Tommy,

I wanted to share one of my fondest memories of you always being around when we needed you most -a trait both you and Uncle Malcolm shared.

This story involves a traveling stranger I met on a Greyhound bus during a trip from Sacramento to Etna. I had stopped in Mount Shasta to visit a friend and brought the British traveler I met, who was on sabbatical and traveling before starting his medical career (that's what he told me) -we were just two young explorers crossing paths.

I took the Brit to Corrigans in Etna for a little fun before he caught the next bus or hitchhiked up to Seattle and Canada. When we stopped at the bar, the locals started getting curious about the foreign kid I had brought, and the small-town skepticism started to flare up.

That's when you showed up Tom, and saved the day. You immediately recognized me as your relative and saw the traveler. You engaged in conversation with us and showed genuine interest in what we had to say. You drank beers with us, and we all talked about our lives and had a great time. I knew you took the time to kick back and get to know us. I remember you even shared a few stories about your own young glory days. I wish I could recall every word, but I still hold onto the wonderful feeling of hearing about your life.

I actually saw the foreign visitor trying to hitchhike off I-5 South a day later.

I truly got to know my cousin Tommy that night. Thank you for sticking around that night with your cousin. I'm also sorry for all the times I played around in the slaughter house with my friends.

Love you, Tommy.

Your 2nd cousin from Mary Hayden.

Emma Harper - November 14, 2025 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ *So sorry Kory for your loss... he was GREAT FRIENDS with my brothers & so well respected
Yes he will be so missed & remembered
RIP TOMMY*

Susan Bigham-Lanning - November 14, 2025 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ *Lots of wonderful memories! He was a wonderful guy and a great friend. Prayers are with the family.*

Dona Farnam - November 07, 2025 at 12:00 AM

DO

“ *Such a huge part of my childhood and shaping me into the person I am today. Work ethic, integrity, & love for agriculture & the rural way of life!!! I will miss you but know that I will see you on the other side!
Rest easy my friend!*

Diane Olson - November 02, 2025 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ *I always knew when I saw Tom's cattle. Their health easily identified them. I shared that with him at the coffee shop a few years ago.
What a gentleman.*

Sheryl Wilkins - November 02, 2025 at 12:00 AM

MB



Madeline Anne Bartig - November 02, 2025 at 12:00 AM

IT

“ *We are so sorry for your loss, sending healing prayers to Kory and family. Tom was a true gentleman and will be greatly missed!*
Sparrow & India Tang



India Tang - November 01, 2025 at 12:00 AM

YM

“ *Kory, I am so sorry for your loss. He was an incredible human. He will be missed. Sending love and prayers for you all.*

Yvonne La Marr-Berry - November 01, 2025 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Tom was a very good man. He will be greatly missed. Always enjoyed talking with him.*

Jim Main - October 31, 2025 at 12:00 AM

EG

“ *So sorry to hear this. Our deepest sympathy Kory and family. He was a heck of a man. Tough but with such a good heart. He will be very missed.*

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

TD

“ May Tom rest in peace 🙏 he will be missed.

Terri Davis - October 31, 2025 at 12:00 AM

VF

“ Rest in peace beloved friend

Vicky Federico - October 31, 2025 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ RIP. I'm so very sorry for your loss. 🙏🙏

Kristen Naylor - October 31, 2025 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ I have so many wonderful memories with Tom, his Mom and Dad in our younger years. May he Rest In Peace. Gone but forever missed 💔

My deepest condolences to Kory and the rest of the family Prayers 🙏



Marsha Farley - October 31, 2025 at 12:00 AM

AH

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

A Memorial Tree was planted for Nerva Malcolm "Tom" Hayden - October 31, 2025 at 12:00 AM

PP

“ Always a kind, funny, generous and wise man.

Pat Peterson - October 31, 2025 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Rest peacefully in the arms of Jesus

Burke family - October 31, 2025 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ I knew Tom in High School, even though He was Older !

Jim Hendricks - October 31, 2025 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ I never met Tom. However, I knew his daughter, Kory through our alma mater. Having seen her character and generosity as a young woman, I have no doubt that she had two supportive and generous parents to lead the way.

So sorry for your loss, Hayden family. May Tom's memory live on in each life that he touched.

- Jim O.

Jim - October 31, 2025 at 12:00 AM

PG

“ He was a good man . So kind.

Patricia Schott Goss - October 31, 2025 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ He was an amazing man

Ginger Moyles - October 31, 2025 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. What a great man .

Cynthia Keno - October 31, 2025 at 12:00 AM

GH

“ *I'm so sorry to hear about his passing. Great guy*

Greta A Hockaday - October 31, 2025 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ *Kory Hayden I am so sorry to see this. Your Dad was ALWAYS kind to me.. Easy on the eyes and that smile Girl, The same one you have . RIP Tom and much LOVE TO YOU Kory 🕊️❤️🙏*

KimLen Perreira - October 31, 2025 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *Kory
I'm so sorry for your loss.*

Jennifer Hewitt - October 31, 2025 at 12:00 AM