



## Richard "Dick" W. DeAvilla

June 26, 1934 - January 31, 2019

Kelly's Pool Hall!!! That's how Richard (Dick) DeAvilla would answer the phone. Dad, Grandpa, Dick, Richard, Cookie Monster, or Kelly down at the Pool hall, many people knew him in many different ways and they all knew they had a good friend.

Richard (Dick) DeAvilla grew up on the Klamath River, the son of Freda Gower, an English immigrant, and Tony DeAvilla,. He was born on June 26, 1934 and passed away on January 31, 2019 at the age of 84. He didn't trek fifty miles in the snow uphill to get to school every day, he took a raft. True story.

Most grandpas take their grandchildren fishing. Dick DeAvilla did too. He was camp boss. He taught his kids and grandkids how to make their own fishing poles from twigs in the forest and catch their own bait. He spearheaded epic camping trips for the entire family—aunts, uncles, cousins. Those camping trips included drives to the highest mountain peaks on roads his father built and cut snow from the mountain tops into big squares to take back to make ice cream.

He helped create the Mayten Fire Department, and served on the Mayten Fire Department Board, Big Springs Community Club, and Big Springs School Board. He came to every sports game his kids and grandkids and great-

grandkids played in. He had a love of football, basketball and baseball as well as hunting and fishing. He had a gigantic vegetable garden. He married his high school sweetheart, Mary Machado. He was a member of the St. Joseph's Catholic Church and served on the Hawkinsville Hall board that organizes the Holy Ghost Festival. He became a Knights of Columbus member after being baptized in the Catholic Church.

He loved his garden and spent many hours there. He would also help others by rotor tilling their gardens in the spring so more could enjoy the fruits/vegetables of their labor. He'd always stop and tease you, ask how you or your family was doing, and probably had a zucchini or a melon for you somewhere in the front seat of his truck. He loved a good card game--rummy or pinochle or solitaire, and said what was on his mind...pretty much while he was thinking it.

He retired from Pacific Power and Light after 40 years of service.

He was predeceased by his parents and his brother Robert DeAvilla. He leaves behind his wife of 64 years, Mary (Machado) DeAvilla; his son Rick (Mary) DeAvilla and daughters Lisa (Joe) Faris, Brenda (Joe) Sisk and Denise DeAvilla Smith. Nine grandchildren: Amy, Tina, David, Joe, Delilah, Lola, Morgan, Megan and Emily. Eight great grandchildren: Derek, Frances, Dylan, Lola, Isaac, Ella, Brooklyn and Carmine.

Richard's services will be Friday, February 8th at the St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Yreka with a Rosary at 1:30 and funeral mass to follow at 2:00 PM. Reception will follow at the Grenada Berean Church in Grenada. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to the Mayten Fire Department or the Big Springs Community Club.

It's fitting that he would leave just as the rains are coming in again and the leaves are about to sprout from the trees—he is telling us with every opening flower, every apple blossom, and every seed planted that he is still here.

And that heaven will have one heck of a garden this year.

# Previous Events

## Rosary

FEB 8. 1:30 PM (PT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church  
314 Fourth Street  
Yreka, CA 96097

## Memorial Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 8. 2:00 PM (PT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church  
314 Fourth Street  
Yreka, CA 96097

# Tribute Wall

KP

“ So so sorry for your loss , Denise he had to be special he was your Father and you are VERY SPECIAL.

*Blessings  
KimLen*

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**KimLen Perreira** - February 27, 2019 at 09:04 AM

RD

“ Thank you everyone for the kind words! Please feel free to leave and stories you may have about Dad on a special Facebook page we have just for that reason.

*<https://www.facebook.com/groups/237594650355584/?ref=share>*

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**Rick DeAvilla** - February 08, 2019 at 12:03 PM

EN

“ I met Dick when I started to teach at Big Springs school because he was an upstanding member of the school board and community. I respected that Dick was always dedicated, ethical, and loyal to his duties as a school board member, while still maintaining friendships with the teachers and staff. Later, Mary became our babysitter, and we got to know their family personally. More than once as I picked up my oldest daughter at the end of the day, I saw her sitting in a high chair at their dinner table, enjoying the conversation and laughter of their loving family. Sometimes Mary would also be babysitting her granddaughters Amy and Tina ("Tuna" as she was called by our older daughter as she learned to talk). Both of our daughters - Elisa and Christie - benefited greatly from being cared for by Mary and Dick.

We enjoyed staying in touch over the years through various events. Some years later when I was teaching at another school, Dick stopped by after school, bringing myself and another former Big Springs teacher his smiles and garden veggies. He was always thinking of others.

I wanted to leave my love and comfort to Mary and the family, and let you know that Phil and I are out of town and unable to attend Dick's funeral. Love you all. Dick has left a wonderful legacy, and God has gained a terrific gardener.

*Phil and Ellen Noble (and Elisa and Christie)*

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**Ellen Noble** - February 08, 2019 at 12:43 AM

MM

“ *The DeAvillas are part of the very fabric of the community of Big Springs...Dick, you will be missed! "The things that we love tell us what we are." These words of Thomas Aquinas say everything that Dick is...family, friends, community, God. Blessings for Dick and his family.*

*Gerry and Marilyn Marchi*

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**Marilyn Marchi** - February 05, 2019 at 08:50 PM

CR

“ *Dick (and Mary) changed the lives of those who resided in Big Springs California. Always looking out for what was needed to make their community better, stronger, happier. No matter what the cause or need they were there to make it happen.*

*We were great friend of the DeAvillas growing up since Dick was a GREAT friend of my father and mother.*

*My wish is the family finds great comfort in knowing how respected and loved their husband, father, grandfather was and what a HUGE difference he made in our lives*

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**Carol Hockaday Rizzo** - February 04, 2019 at 09:50 PM

JS

“ *Prayers to the family. We met Dick in 1970 when we moved to Big Springs. So many memories! Our children went to school together, Dick and Mary were everywhere, volunteered for anything that needed help. A huge Blessing to all that knew him! ❤️ RIP Dick and God Bless Mary and your family. Janet (Garrigan) Shaw*

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**Janet Shaw** - February 04, 2019 at 07:08 PM

MB

*My prayers and love for the family and friends. A beautiful friend and what a sweetheart. Thank you sir for all you did in this world. God Bless*

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**Mae Nell Buttram** - February 04, 2019 at 09:06 PM

RC

*Sorry for the loss of a good person. We always looked forward to Dick keeping us abreast of the activities in the Big Springs area. He will be missed.*

Robert D Cameron - February 04, 2019 at 09:44 PM

MJ

“ *Can you imagine the garden that Dick and Larry will have in heaven? Larry will be happy to see him. Maureen Jones*

Maureen E Jones - February 04, 2019 at 06:56 PM



*Dick always had a smile on his face and something from his garden for everyone.*

Arthur Gerds - February 04, 2019 at 10:48 PM

MC

“ *My parents (Ellen and Bob Wilson) both knew Dick. I always remember hearing his name growing up. My parents lived at Seiad years ago where I assume they first knew him from, then later moved to COPCO II where they lived until my dad retired from PP&L. They were both fond of him. Sorry to hear of his passing. Condolences to the family. Mary Wilson Coon*

Mary Coon - February 04, 2019 at 06:31 PM

SH

*My dad's Sonny Allen was a good friend of Dicks sorry he is gone from this Earth but I think my dad might be happy to see him in heaven God bless you all*

Sue Halterman - February 04, 2019 at 06:53 PM

DE

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



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**Denise** - February 04, 2019 at 05:45 PM

DI

*Great picture of Dick. Condolences to the DeAvilla family from the Israel's. We loved him dearly.*

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**Debbie Israel** - February 06, 2019 at 07:41 PM