



Terry Dietrick Anderson

September 26, 1935 - January 20, 2024

Terry had many titles: father, grandfather, brother, teacher, coach, and fisherman, but his most cherished role was husband. It was a love story that started with a spark, continued with fun and laughter, and ended after 65 years. His wife, director, and gambling partner Susan was his adored bride their entire time together. Terry always said that he was in charge when Susan let him be.

After losing his dad at a young age, Terry and his darling sister Judy were raised by their hardworking mother, Odie. During his time in Payette, Idaho, Terry was often seen fishing on the river, climbing on the roof of the house or causing chaos with a grin. Some thought he might end up in prison but instead he became a high school teacher after making a connection with one of his high school teachers. Off he went to University of Idaho to become the "Terry Tuna" & "Mr. Wonderful" teacher and coach that students would love for over 35 years. His teaching style focused on connecting with students first, and not always through "standard" teaching practices. His innovative (and sometimes legendary) methods included student trips to Ma and Pa's donut shop, talks about values, nozzlers, and once exchanging an entire classroom during break while a student slept.

The father and grandfather are the same person that his students and athletes knew in the classroom, on the field, and in the community: caring, affectionate, and unpredictable in his humor, but always accepting and non-judgmental.

Terry and Susan moved to Yreka, CA in 1969 after hearing about the job

opening at Yreka High School from Bob Weber, a lifelong friend he met in grad school. Bob's daughter Georgia Conroy (and husband Richard) remain cherished family friends to this day. All of Terry's colleagues were his friends and often the target of his jokes. Mary Ann Dillon, George Marlatt and Jim Eckman were just a few that we remember fondly for their contributions to his rich life.

A self-taught fisherman, Terry could be seen every fall rowing his drift boat "Cirrhosis of the River" on the Klamath with Susan sitting in the front well into his 70's. His many grandchildren had Terry there as they pulled salmon out of the river. They continue his legacy of fishing and having a deep understanding that sometimes everyone needs a good ribbing.

His 6 granddaughters will each miss being the favorite and his many cuddles. His 6 grandsons will miss his army stories and smart-ass remarks. His sons, David and Jim, will miss salmon fishing and constantly being entertained while floating on the river. His daughters, Julie and Kathryn, will miss his silliness, but they are both still a little angry that he died. Susan will miss his attitude, he did not complain. We will not miss his stubbornness.

Terry was also a lifelong San Francisco 49ers fan. On the day of his passing, he was adamant that they needed to watch the NFL playoff game between the 49ers and the Packers. The 49ers won in a nail-biter 24-21. Terry passed away shortly after the game, with the knowledge that the 49ers Super Bowl hopes were still alive.

The Anderson family feel blessed by the entire Yreka community that were such a big part of "a life well lived". Amazing neighbors, fishing buddies, fellow coaches, students, athletes, love circle couples and crazy friends made for a full and loving life.

We trust that Terry has already been greeted by his father Fred with a fishing pole in his hand, along with his "brothers," Mark and Richard, sitting on the deck in Idaho watching the osprey and drinking a cocktail.

Terry is survived by his wife Susan, his four children, James (Catherine), David (Mary), Julie (Michael), and Kathryn; his sister Judy (Jim) Hawley; dear

sister-in-law Patricia Perry; 12 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; and a deeply loved and very large extended family.

"Thanks for calling, it was great to hear your voice."

Thanks for living, we already miss hearing your voice.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday February 3, 2024 from 12-3, at Miner's Convention Center

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to Madrone Hospice Inc. who were angels in their care for Terry. <https://www.madronehospice.org/> 255 Collier Circle, Yreka, Ca 96097

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Obituary Wall*



Girdner Funeral Chapel - April 27 at 03:44 PM

TD

“ *Trees, a befitting remembrance of Terrys love of the outdoors:)
Much love to all of you*

The Dillons - Dana, Laurie, Jim, and Deb - February 04, 2024 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ *Mr. Anderson and Mr. Weber were my favorite teachers. Mr. Anderson was such a wonderful tease. I blew a bubble in his class that popped covering my face and hair. There would be no graceful exit granted. His smile let me know I was forgiven for chewing gum in class.
Deni Duncan (Foiles)*

Deni Duncan - January 31, 2024 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ *Terry Dietrick Anderson*

Julie Anderson - January 29, 2024 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ Dearest Cousin Susan, My thoughts and prayers are with you and your wonderful family in the passing of darling Terry.

Love, Cousin Mary Ann - January 28, 2024 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ One of my favorite teachers. Prayers to his family

Carol Mitchell - January 28, 2024 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ My condolences to his family and friends. Mr. Anderson was one of my very favorite teachers in high school. His kindness and smart ass-ery were unparalleled. The world is a better place for him having been a part of it. ~Meghan Murphy, YHS class of '98.

Meghan Murphy - January 28, 2024 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ RIP 💔 Mr Anderson you were my favorite, will never forget how great of a teacher you were. 🙏❤️

Mike-Michell Rothenberger - January 28, 2024 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ So very sorry to hear about Terry passing. Sending hugs,prayers,and love to all off you at this very difficult time.

Ruth Hurd - January 27, 2024 at 12:00 AM

TP

“ *'Mr. Wonderful' was indeed a wonderful man, an awesome and inspiring teacher that made learning fun and a special person that will be fondly remembered and deeply missed by all who knew him! Sincerest sympathies to all of his family.*


Tara (Jake) Porterfield - January 27, 2024 at 12:00 AM

CY

“ *Those who knew Terry can appreciate his humor and his humanity*

Charlie Young - January 27, 2024 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ *I will miss you Tuna!*
LOVE,
Greenie
Laurie Greenwood Helsley


Laurie Helsley - January 27, 2024 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *Loved Mr. Anderson!❤️ He was an amazing person.*

Stacey Higgs Saunders - January 27, 2024 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ *Condolences to all his family and friends. He made history fun to learn. We had great discussions in his classes. He was great at leaving personal messages on our graded papers. He was a caring teacher who encouraged us to think for ourselves. God's speed Mr. Anderson!*

Cindy Sharp - January 27, 2024 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Coach Anderson you were the best Powder Puff Football Coach ever. You would tell me "just go 10 yards then keep running " 😊.
Thank-you for being a part of my life. ❤️.
Connie Wishart Homeres.

Connie Wishart Homeres - January 26, 2024 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ ❤️

Donna Kleaver Thompson - January 26, 2024 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ Living next door to the Anderson family was an adventure. Terry was not one to pass up a prank. My favorite one... he put our house up for sale while we were out of town complete with signs and flags. You were the best human!
So much love...
The Giardino family

Shirley Giardino - January 26, 2024 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ He was an awesome teacher.

Michael Colson - January 26, 2024 at 12:00 AM

NP

“ He was a very great neighbor and always made me smile and laugh with his humor.

Nancy Betts Porter - January 26, 2024 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ Great man!

Sharon Hall - January 26, 2024 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ Rest in peace Tuna. 🥺

Tracy Samuelson - January 26, 2024 at 12:00 AM

AA

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

A Memorial Tree was planted for Terry Dietrick Anderson - January 26, 2024 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ What a wonderful man, he will be missed 💕💕💕

Janine Ling Kimball - January 26, 2024 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ You were one of my favorite teachers. RIP. You will definitely be missed.

Maureen Atchley - January 26, 2024 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ You'll forever hold a spot in my most cherished memories. Thank you for dedication to being an amazing teacher with a genuine love for his students and blessing my nostrils with fisherman's grip. You are missed Mr.Anderson.

Jennifer Milne - January 26, 2024 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ Mr. Anderson, my lifelong love for History and Political Science where you and Mr. Eckman taught us to "think beyond the ink," and that " if you can find nothing to vote for, find something to vote against". You were right, textbooks were overrated and life experience and inquisitiveness were too often underrated. God be with your clan who must be missing your wit and wisdom right now.

*Love and Deepest Respects,
Allison (Wells) Leal*

Allison (Wells) Leal - January 26, 2024 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ Mr. Anderson, heaven is a better place with you there.

Sharilyn J. White - January 26, 2024 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ Mr Anderson 🙏

Amy Cordova - January 26, 2024 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ Mr. Wonderful will always hold a special place in my heart. Thank you for being you and for making such a 'wonderful' impact in this world. ❤️

Jenny Hermant Dunham - January 26, 2024 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ My Favorite Teacher, Ever!! 😍 Good Bye Mr. Anderson. 🙏

Laurie Cummins-Shryock - January 26, 2024 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ My dear friends, I'm so very sorry for your great loss! Much love to you all!

Tat Chase - January 26, 2024 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ Such a great man and a wonderful teacher

Deana Truttman - January 26, 2024 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Summer school 1973. Great memories.

Chris Walker- Soule - January 26, 2024 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ Terry Anderson's compassion and understanding added much to any assignment His follow through was well done and said. An amazing teacher... from a parents view. ❤️

Liz Hockaday - January 26, 2024 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ Terry Tuna we loved you!!💕💕💕

Charlene Barry Jones - January 26, 2024 at 12:00 AM

AV

“ Terry Tuna! ❤️ you will be missed

Amy Zoe Vogel-Churchill - January 26, 2024 at 12:00 AM

D'

“ Terry was a rare human being that brought joy and humor everywhere he went. It was a privilege grownig up two doors down. One of favorite teachers of all time!

Monday after he retired. He and his pal - and fellow teacher - George Marlatt - brought Terry's fishing boat to school. Parked it. And themselves. Sitting down in lawn chairs. Drinkiog coffee. Reading the newspaper. And ignoring everybody!

Love that man!

Dean Giardino. Class of '78 - January 26, 2024 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ What a beautiful life! He was such a special man.

Tanya Costales - January 26, 2024 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ What a legacy. Terry Tuna we all loved you and have great memories. I'm sorry about the night we stuffed your truck with wadded up newspapers then TP'ed it and your yard. We really loved you!



Carol Hockaday Forneris - January 26, 2024 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ Remember his crazy curly hair? Aww Mr. Anderson such a nice human.

Terra Broce Shepherd - January 26, 2024 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ Really enjoyed his sense of humor in the classroom at YHS. Always a favorite of mine! Thanks for the memories Terry Tuna.

Peggy Himbert - January 26, 2024 at 12:00 AM