

Jack Burle Reese

September 21, 2019



Jack Burle Reese passed away on September 8, 2019 after a long fearless battle with cancer. He was born January 2, 1935 in Bellflower California to John and Vivian Reese.

He is survived by his family, Kathryn McNary-Reese; sons Gregory Ferreira-Reese, Ryan (Amber) Reese and daughter Angela Reese; sisters Marylin (Dale) Zumstein, Tracy Reese-Pedroni and Keely Reese; grandchildren Hayden (Kaitlyn) Peeples, Garrett Ferreira, Jackson Reese, Avagale Goughnour, great-grandchildren Ryker and Blair and a number of nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and son John Tracy Reese.

He attended Excelsior High School and after graduation he joined the Army serving during the Korean War, he continued in military service by joining the Army reserves and after many years of dedicated service retiring with the prestigious rank of Command Sergeant Major. He graduated from Chico State University as well as Sacramento State majoring in Criminal Justice, gaining a teaching credential and taught at Butte College and College of the Redwoods.

In 1976, Jack and his family moved to Crescent City where he worked in law enforcement and constructed four commercial greenhouses to mainly grow hydroponic tomatoes. He became known as the “tomato man”. There were many gatherings in and around the greenhouses; sales, mixers, open house and a few wild parties.

Jack dedicated 60 years to public service in law enforcement working for the Chico PD, Live Oak as Chief of Police, Crescent City PD and Del Norte County Sheriff’s department. After retirement from law enforcement he began his political career being elected to the Board of Supervisors and serving three terms. During his tenure he was active with many agencies; one of his favorites being Nor-Tec and was proud of the job creation programs. Jack also served as Harbor Commissioner for two terms.

Jack was a 42-year member of Crescent Lodge No. 45, being raised to Master Mason in six months. He was one of the seven local car enthusiasts who founded the legendary car show Sea Cruise in 1992 and was fondly hailed as “Mr. Sea Cruise”. He was a Harley-Davidson devotee and enjoyed many road trips with friends.

Jack was very proud of his many accomplishments and always maintained an attitude of confidence and pride. “It’s Hard to be Humble” so fittingly reflects his personality.

The family offers a special thanks to Kelly Schellong, Doug Plack, Jaime Southard, Pastor Steve Alexander as well as the compassionate nurses from Sutter Home Health AIM Program. His presence in our family and community will be greatly missed.

Services will be held at the Veterans Hall 810 H Street, Crescent City CA October 12, 2019 at 1:00PM. Interment will be in the Northern California Veterans Cemetery in Igo California. In lieu of flowers kindly consider donations to Wild Rivers Community Foundation in memory of Jack Reese.