

Thomas Edward Baker

October 1, 2024



Thomas Edward Baker, aged 89, passed away on September 7, 2024, at his home in Crescent City, California. Tom was born on January 6, 1935 in Huntington Park, California to James and Bessie Baker. He was preceded in death by his parents, four brothers, and two sisters. Tom was known for his friendly demeanor and his deep love for his family and friends. He was a skilled and passionate craftsman who could fix anything, which was evident in his professional and personal life.

Tom proudly served in the United States Navy aboard the USS Essex during the Korean War from 1952 to 1956. His military service was a significant chapter in his life, contributing to his skills and discipline, which he later applied in his civilian career.

Following his military service, Tom and his wife, Vera moved to Manteca, California where they raised their three sons and resided for 30 years. Tom established a successful automotive repair business in Manteca, which he operated for several years. He later transitioned to working as a licensed engineer on ocean going tugboats in the Gulf of Mexico, Hawaii, and the West Coast.

In 1990, Tom and Vera visited Crescent City, California to go salmon fishing and instantly fell in love with the area. Before their two-week visit was over, they had purchased a house, making Crescent City their home. They were later joined in Crescent City by all three of their sons. Tom's hobbies included fishing, hunting, and traveling extensively across the United States including Alaska and Hawaii, Baja and Canada. He was passionate about his family, working in his garage, maintaining his property and vehicles, and caring for his dogs and chickens.

Tom will be sorely missed by his beloved wife of 72 years, Vera; and their sons Brent (Debbie), Mike, and Vince; along with his grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Tom's life was marked by his dedication to his family, his service to his country, and his love for the outdoors and mechanical work. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

