



Joseph Koehly

January 12, 1935 - June 10, 2019

Joseph, 84, of Chico, CA passed away on June 10, 2019. Joe was born on January 12, 1935 in Dayton, OH to Paul Koehly and Florence Limbert Koehly. Joe served his country proudly as an officer in the United States Air Force for over 20 years; he received many commendations for his service, including the Meritorious Service Medal and the Bronze Star Medal. Joe led the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratory (AFCRL) stratospheric balloon launches at the Chico Municipal Airport from 1973 to 1976. He and his wife, Mercie, fell in love with Chico returning permanently to the area following Joe's retirement from military service in 1979. Joe taught mathematics and statistics at Butte College and Chico State University.

Joe had a great interest in agriculture, returning to Butte College for his AA and applying his new-found knowledge by running a small almond and walnut orchard in Durham. He had a passion for vegetable gardening, watching sports – especially basketball - and old westerns. Joe enjoyed traveling the globe with his wife, Mercie, with a special fondness for Kauai and Germany. He loved being outdoors – including hunting and fishing with friends, camping with family, visiting national parks, and enjoying the family vacation home at Eagle Lake. Joe was independent, self-sufficient, and had a strong work ethic, with a priority of providing opportunity for his children to pursue their educational and career goals. He lived by his own set of high standards and principles, was a role model for others, and instilled similar values in his five children.

Joe is survived by four children and seven grandchildren: Karen (children Jordan, Bianca, Elory, and Ethan), Laura (husband Steven), Melissa (husband Kevin, sons Bradley and Benjamin), and Andrew (wife Ariane, daughter Mia); his brother Paul, and countless other family members and friends who brought much fulfillment to his life. He is now reunited with his wife, Mercie, and his son, Brad, who left us far too early more than 35 years ago. He will be missed immensely but will continue to be present, in spirit, within those who had the great fortune to be a part of his life, and he of theirs. The family would like to thank the caregivers at Almond Blossom Senior Care for their generosity and the loving care provided during these past three years; the Almond Blossom care team and residents

were his adopted family and we sincerely appreciate the home that they created for Joe.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to CurePSP (<https://www.psp.org/>).

Joe will receive full military honors during his interment at the Northern California Military Veterans Cemetery on Monday, June 17.

A Celebration of Life will be held on September 21, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church located at 285 E 5th Street, Chico, CA 95928.

Please visit <http://www.brusiefh.com> to leave condolences for the family.

Events

SEP **Celebration of Life** 10:00AM

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Trinity United Methodist Church
285 East 5th, Chico, CA, US