



## Martin Zimmerman

June 21, 1922 - April 18, 2021

Martin "Marty" Zimmerman, lifelong resident and farmer, of Tehama County went home to be with the Lord on April 18, 2021 at the age of 98. His spiritual relationship with Jesus really helped him the last few years where physical health challenges limited his ability to farm.

Born on June 21, 1922 at his home in Kirkwood, CA to Baltazar and Ursula Zimmerman. He was one of 8 children. Marty attended Kirkwood elementary school where he skipped a grade, he played on the Corning High School tennis team, and graduated at the age of 16. At 11 years old he began driving his mother, a widow who didn't drive, until he got stopped by the California Highway Patrol where they told him he could get a provisional license which he did at age 12. In 1943 Marty and his mother were recognized by the Farm Security Administration as one of fifteen farmers in California for their outstanding contribution to supporting the World War II effort by providing milk, chicken eggs, lamb, wheat and hay. Marty learned farming at a young age which became his lifelong passion. Over his lifetime of farming and ranching he grew various crops like alfalfa, wheat, oats, and corn along with raising beef cattle.

Marty and Virginia (Holcomb) Zimmerman, his beloved wife, had 3 children together. He and his life-long best friend and business partner, Andy Skala, built his home in the mid-1950's using materials salvaged from abandoned homes and barns. His children remember straightening nails from the old boards to use to build the house. Marty and Andy also built a shop, storage buildings, and a lean-to out of recycled bridge planks, sheet metal and pouring their own concrete floor. Marty is well known for building his own custom farm equipment and repairs. After farming all day, he loved spending time with his children teaching them to play tennis on a lighted court he built. Swimming at the Button Hole at Stony Creek was a regular activity for the family. Once a year the family went to the coast to fish and dive for abalone to get away from the valley heat. It was a special time for the family as they usually camped at Juan Creek, within walking distance to the

ocean.

He loved people, no one was a stranger. Marty always helped others in their time of need. Marty loved history and was an avid reader. He had a great memory and loved telling his life stories. He is featured in a local history book "2019 Memories" Tehama County Genealogical History Society written by Josie Smith. He said his happiest time is "driving a tractor" which he did until he was in his late 90's.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Virginia, brothers, sisters, and parents. He is survived by his children: Martin (Carolyn) Zimmerman Jr., Elizabeth Miller, Steven (Debbie) Zimmerman; stepchildren: Diane Huskisson, Bernardean (Craig) Downing, Darlene Boyd; 12 grandchildren and 27 great grandchildren who he dearly loved.

Graveside services will be held Friday, April 30th at 11:30am at the Kirkwood Cemetery. An outdoor potluck celebrating his life will follow at his home.

# Cemetery

---

## Kirkwood Cemetery

Hall Rd

Corning, CA, 96021

# Events

---

**APR** **Graveside Service** 11:30AM - 12:00PM

**30**

---

Kirkwood Cemetery

Hall Rd, Corning, CA, US, 96021