



## CHARLES EDWIN GILDEA

May 9, 1935 - January 27, 2023

CHARLES EDWIN GILDEA OF CORNING, CA, PASSED AWAY IN CHICO, CA, ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2023. Charles Edwin Gildea went home to be with the Lord on January 27, 2023. He was born on May 9, 1935, in Corning, California to parents Willard Charles Gildea and Margaret Dagen. Charlie loved growing up in Corning and was the oldest of four children. He was raised on his family's dairy ranch located west of Corning with his three sisters. In 1954, Charlie met the love of his life, Ruth Phillips and they were married in 1957. Together they raised their two sons, Steve and Rob in town. Later in life, Charlie and Ruth built a home in an olive orchard and settled in the Squaw Hill District of Corning. They lived a wonderful life together, filled with many fond memories and wonderful friends who were more like family.

Charlie served in the United States Army from 1958 to 1960, including 13 months in Korea. Upon his return stateside, he began working as a mechanic in the trucking industry where he developed a love for trucks and tractors. Eventually, he bought his own truck and started his business named Charlie Gildea Trucking. Charlie was an active member of the Northern California Chapter of the American Truck Historical Society. He became well known for his involvement in Corning's annual Lighted Christmas Parade with his tractor loaded with children and Christmas lights. It was a highlight for Charlie to have his grandchildren and local kids from Squaw Hill ride along on his decorated

tractor.

Charlie will be remembered for his steadfast love for his family and unwavering faith in Jesus. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Corning. Charlie made it a priority to keep in touch with high school friends and participated in planning many class reunions. Charlie was a faithful husband, a committed father, and a doting grandfather. He never missed an opportunity to watch his grandchildren play in sporting events or activities, often traveling great distances to show his love and support.

Charlie will be deeply missed by his wife of 65 years, Ruth; his sons, Steve (Sheila), Rob (Lisa), and his 8 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren and sister Donna. He was preceded in death by his parents, his sisters, Georgia and Lillian, and two brothers-in-law. Charlie's corny jokes, commanding voice, and ability to talk for hours to anyone that would listen will be missed by many extended family members and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held on March 11, 2023 at 1:00 at First Baptist Church of Corning.

# Cemetery Details

## Sunset Hill Cemetery

4470 Oren ave  
Corning, CA 96021

# Events

**Details are pending.**