



## David Edward Tinker

March 2, 1962 - January 20, 2026

David Edward Tinker went home to be with our Lord and Heavenly Father the morning of January 20th, 2026.

David was born on March 2nd, 1962, in Los Angeles and grew up with his 2 brothers and a sister in Bonita, CA. After graduating from the class of 1980 from Christian High, he attended San Diego State University to obtain his BS in Biology. He later moved to Chico, CA, and acquired his teaching credential. Dave was in his 35th year teaching at Corning Union High School, where he taught Science and Natural Resources.

Driven by a heart for science and education, David was a passionate, inspirational teacher who insisted on hands-on learning. Oftentimes, he would bring some form of nature into the classroom or mentor and educate his students out in the field. He had a willingness to listen and make people feel seen, student and colleague alike, which will forever be remembered. Dave's enthusiastic presence in life shined on campus during spirit week dress-up days with some truly iconic costumes, helping foster a sense of school pride and connection with students.

Among Dave's many passions were learning and teaching the Natural history of local areas. Dave was a docent at Dye Creek Nature Preserve since 1993, where he led multiple hikes taking his Natural Resource students every spring. Teaching and passing on information to anyone who would listen.

Dave never met a stranger. He was kind, boisterous, curious, and always loved to share a story or a piece of information, especially about birds or the natural world. You could count on him to always point out some unique bird, bug, plant, or animal. Always in awe at God's beautiful creation and how it all seamlessly fits together. He felt it was his duty, God gave him to help care for the wild birds that came into his care that were injured or orphaned. Often he would go on a bird rescue call to relocate a lost nestling to its nest or capture a bird that was injured with the goal of releasing it back into the wild after sharing the experience with students in the classroom.

David was a dedicated and loving husband and father who was so proud of his family. He shared 24 years of marriage with his wife, Holly, and made her dreams his own. He loved guiding and watching his children grow into amazing young adults and celebrating their successes and accomplishments with them and the little farm they all built together. He laughed about growing up a city boy; he'd never imagined he'd be tasked with being a farmer. As his children grew and were involved in an array of activities from 4-H to sports, he was a youth coach for multiple sports teams like Wrestling, Little League, and Basketball. Wrestling stuck for him though through all the years, and he was proud to help manage the Corning Sharks wrestling club. He had such a positive effect on the Corning community and beyond, and will be greatly missed.

14 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many [a]mansions; if it were not so, [b]I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. John 14:1-3

David is survived by his wife, Holly; children, Jeremiah Tinker, Josephine Tinker; siblings, Phillip (Dawn) Tinker, Andrew Tinker, Pamela Johnson, and Kim Berling.

He is preceded in death by parents Gerald "Tim" Tinker, Ruby Tinker, and birth-mother Mary Jean Berling.

Celebration of life services will be held at Corning Union High School on Saturday, April 25th at 11am

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

APR **25**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PT)

Corning Union High School  
643 Blackburn Ave  
Corning , CA 96021

# Tribute Wall

DN

“ Deidre N. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Edward Tinker.

Deidre N. - February 07 at 01:16 PM

YR

“ Yvette R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Edward Tinker.

Yvette R. - February 07 at 01:18 AM

MJ

“ Mari Jane lit a candle in memory of David Tinker



Mari Jane - January 23 at 10:32 PM

DV

“ Worked on projects with Dave while I was with Americorps and his enthusiasm and passion for teaching was delightful and to see him with his students down by the river doing sediment flow studies off Kopta Slough, AND getting 20 high schoolers excited about it.....!!!  
□ He will always live on in part thru all who knew him. Peace and Love to the Family

Debra Vangieson - January 23 at 09:27 PM

RS

“ This one is tough. He made absolutely everyone feel special and important. He was teachers, my sons' teacher and I'm so sad that my daughters won't have the honor. Several years back, I was in a bind because an ATM error lead to me being unable to pull out the money I needed to move into a new place later that day. It was a bank holiday so I couldn't speak with anyone inside. I had my kids and all of my possessions packed up and nowhere to go until the bank reopened so I could get the money I needed. I made a post online about it in hopes of finding a place to go for the weekend or if anyone knew of a way to get through to the bank. A few minutes later, Mr Tinker chimes in out of the blue simply asking where he could go to go pay the deposit for me. I was flabbergasted. He had nothing to gain from this, except I think he just had a huge heart and didn't want is to possibly miss out on getting our place. The bank managers aunt also happened to see my post and called him and he reached out so I was able to access my money after all. But, he was ready and willing to go out down this deposit, solely because he really loved his student, past and present. That was his character. I'll miss running into him in the grocery store and him calling me by my sister's name, which had been a long ruñing joke since highschool. My family and I are so shook and grieved by this loss..our hearts and prayers are with his wife Holly and his children. I hope they always know that their dad was an absolute gem of a human and his presence will be missed by the entire community. I could never thank him enough for making me feel seen as a kid when I felt invisible. He may be gone but he will always be a legend in this town, not just for being an awesome teacher but for being an awesome human.

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**Rebekah Holden Sams** - January 23 at 09:27 PM

DN

*I am so sad. He will be greatly missed--best homecoming buddy, ever. Holly, my prayers are with you. This is a thin veil, and then--with Jesus forever. David is there waiting.*

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**Debora Notari** - February 11 at 10:44 PM