

March 15, 1932  November 21, 2025



Don Albert Cose

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Honoring Don Cose on Friday January 30th, 4-7 PM
at Tracy Transit Station, 50 E 6th St., Tracy, CA 95376.

Don Albert Cose, a devoted husband, beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and treasured member of the Tracy community, passed away peacefully on Friday, November 21, 2025, at his

"I love Tracy!" His affection for the community never diminished, and he often spoke of how fortunate he felt to have spent more than five decades in the city.

home in Tracy, with family by his side.

Don was born on March 15, 1932, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to Albert and Eleanor Cose. He grew up alongside his sister, Barbara Wells, and his brother, Paul Cose, and enjoyed a childhood full of mischief. As a boy, he dreamed of becoming a cowboy. Although that dream never materialized, he went on to lead a life filled with adventure.

After the family relocated to California, Don attended Wilson High School in Long Beach. It was at a school dance that he met the love of his life, Darlene. Don often said he knew instantly that she was his soulmate. Their engagement was deferred while he served active duty in Guam with the United States Navy, a commitment he later continued as a reservist until retiring as a lieutenant commander j.g.

When Don returned, he and Darlene married and went on to share sixty-seven years together. During that time, they welcomed two sons, Dale and Greg, who filled their home with love and, fittingly, their own share of mischief.

Despite having young children, Don earned his bachelor of science degree in aeronautical engineering and his master's degree in aerothermodynamics from the University of California, Berkeley. He worked as a rocket scientist for seven years before transitioning into real estate and development. The work was often not glamorous and routinely required getting dirty. Don, Darlene, Dale and Greg routinely worked together on projects that could qualify for an episode of *Dirty Jobs*.

But Don had a gift for vision and could see potential where others saw only problems.

In 1970, Don and Darlene moved their family to Tracy, where they built their lifelong home. Together with his family, Don acquired several properties in the downtown area and became a strong supporter of local events. He believed deeply in the value of community and often said the heart of Tracy was its downtown. His love for the City of Tracy was unwavering. In 2019, when he was awarded Male Citizen of the Year by the Tracy Chamber of Commerce, Don proudly declared during his acceptance speech,

He pursued many personal passions throughout his life. In their earlier years, he and Darlene traveled extensively, visiting Europe, China, Egypt, and Mexico. He later traveled to Ghana and Venezuela for humanitarian work. At home, he found joy in woodworking and spent countless hours in his shop. He also loved collecting antiques, especially classic cars and vintage signs, and enjoyed attending swap meets and car shows.

In his later years, he took great comfort in his familiar weekly routines. He met several times a week with his coffee klatch with Stan Morri, Monty Montgomery, Frank Cameron, Mike Thibodeau and Byron Alvarez, where they would "solve the world's problems." He was rarely seen without one of his cashmere sweaters and his ready smile. He loved watching classic films, particularly those featuring John Wayne and anything about WWII. He also spent cherished time at the Tracy Senior Center, where he sang karaoke and danced with friends.

He is survived by his sons, Dale Cose, Greg Cose (Kim); grandchildren, Chris Cose, Haley Mott, Jake Cose, and Sophia Cose, and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Darlene; grandson, Drew Cose; siblings, Barbara Wells and Paul Cose; sister-in-law, Cheryl O'Lenic; parents, Albert and Eleanor Cose.

A celebration of Don's life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, those who wish to honor his memory are invited to support local causes that were important to him, including the Tracy Rotary Club or the McHenry House, Tracy Sutter Hospital, Tracy Boys and Girls Club and Grand Theater.

A special thanks to Pastor Kal and St. Paul's Lutheran Church and a heartfelt thanks to Don's devoted caregivers and the support of Annette Hutchinson. Also a special thanks to Kim Cose for her unwavering dedication to insure the best care for her father in law for six years. And also Dr. J Patel who has been an enormous resource for over 35 years.

