

# Johnny M. Philpott



August 4, 1936 🌿 March 27, 2026

*It is with heavy hearts and profound sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved Johnny M. Philpott, who departed this world peacefully on March 27, 2026, at Casa De Modesto. Born on August 4, 1934, in Tahlequah, OK, John lived a rich and fulfilling life surrounded by family and friends who cherished him deeply. He was 91 years old.*

*John was the one of 5 children of John and Virginia Philpott, who predeceased him, along with his brothers Theodore, Jack, Benny, and sister Pauline Philpott-Derby. Despite these losses, John's life was abundantly filled with love and joy, shared with his devoted wife of 67 years, Laverne, whom he married in Tracy, CA, on July 26, 1959. Together, John and Laverne built a beautiful family, raising three wonderful children: Steve (Georgeanne), Janet Pierson (Randy), and David, who carry forward his legacy of love, kindness hard work and dedication.*

*John's life was a testament to his unwavering work ethic and dedication.*

*After attending Tracy High School, a series of youthful speeding tickets led him to a pivotal choice: join the service or face jail time. Opting for the former, he served with honor as a Motorpool Sergeant in the U.S. Army from 1955 to 1959. This experience instilled in him a sense of discipline and responsibility that he carried throughout his life.*

*John's professional journey began with a 25-year tenure at the Heinz Factory in Tracy, CA, after which he pursued his dream by opening Philpott's Garage in 1980. Known for its honesty*

*and quality, the garage became a staple in the Tracy community, and upon John's retirement in 2006, his son David proudly continued the family business.*

*Beyond his professional accomplishments, John was a passionate NASCAR fan and a revered figure in the racing community. In 1968, he founded Philpott Racing, where his competitive spirit shone brightly. The torch of his racing legacy was passed to his son David and grandsons Justin and Ryan, who together have celebrated numerous victories and championships. John was honored with awards such as Mechanic of the Year, marking the end of an era and solidifying his status as a legend in the racing world.*

*John's life was enriched by his involvement with the Tracy Elks Lodge, where he formed lifelong friendships and contributed to the community. He was a big animal fan and had a soft spot for animals. His interests extended beyond racing as he found joy in the simplest pleasures, particularly the love of his family, especially his great-grandchildren, who could effortlessly melt his heart with their smiles and laughter.*

*A man of strong conviction and tender heart, John was known for his playful orneriness and stubborn spirit, yet beneath it all lay a compassionate soul—a gentle giant who touched the lives of everyone he met. His legacy lives on through his grandchildren Steve Jr., Dennis Estes (Yesebia), Lee Alegre (Adriana), Ryan Philpott (Lea), Matthew Philpott (Brooke), Justin Philpott (Courtney), Christine Pierson (George) and his great-grandchildren Tori Estes, Peyton, Mattison, Kane, Sutton, Layne, Carsyn Philpott, and a baby girl Philpott due in June. He is also survived by many nephews, great-nephews, and one niece, all of whom will carry forward his memory in their hearts.*

*There will be a Visitation from 4-6 p.m. on April 6, 2026 at Tracy Memorial Chapel and a celebration of John's life will be held on April 7, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at the Tracy Memorial Chapel, located at 5 W. Highland Ave., Tracy, CA.*

*In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to the the Tracy Animal Shelter, an organization close to John's heart.*

*John M. Philpott was a man of integrity, warmth, and unwavering love—a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend. His legacy will continue to inspire all who knew him, and he will be deeply missed but forever remembered with love and gratitude.*

