

NOV. 2, 1949 - FEB. 26, 2026

VONNIE CRITES

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Vonnie Edward Crites, at the age of 76. Von passed away at home on his family ranch. He was born in Modesto, California, to parents Delbert and Dorothy Crites and spent his life in Tracy, California, where he attended Lamersville, Jefferson, and New Jerusalem schools. Von graduated from Tracy Joint Union High School.



From a young age, Von demonstrated a strong work ethic, beginning work at 12 under the mentorship of Bernard Ellisagary at sheep camp. Bernard's guidance encouraged Von to join the military and pursue a career as a cattle rancher. At 13, he also worked for local farmer Jim McCleod.

Von proudly served in the United States Marine Corps with H Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry, serving in Vietnam. Upon returning home, he worked in a variety of roles, from hauling hay for Frank Ender to driving a gas truck for Moore Petroleum in Banta. He eventually joined S.T. Services at the Port of Stockton, where he became a fuel terminal manager until retirement.

He was involved in 4H, FFA, and Clutch Burners. Von's love for the outdoors was evident in the way he raised his family, sharing countless adventures hunting, fishing, camping, and boating.

Von was married to his wife Patricia (Patty) Crites for nearly 50 years. Together, they built a home on the hill and raised three children: Michelle, Amy, and Jaryd. He was a passionate cattle rancher, devoted to the land that has been in his family since 1876. Known for his toughness and generosity, Von would always give the shirt off his back. He loved music, good conversation, and shared countless laughs with family and friends. Von was preceded in death by his parents, Delbert and Dorothy, and his younger brother, Clay Crites. He is survived by his beloved wife, Patty; daughters Michelle Vicente and Amy Reynolds (husband Beau); son Jaryd Crites (wife Melissa); grandchildren Mikayla Vicente, Eric Golnic, Kali and Waylon Reynolds, Nevaeh, Avery, and AJ Haines; and his sister, Suzanne Hewitt.

Celebration of Life - Service Details

Memorial Service:

Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Tracy Memorial Chapel, 5 W Highland Ave, Tracy, CA 95376

Military Honors & Burial:

Following the service, Von will receive military honors at his final resting place:

Tracy Public Cemetery - District 501

Address: East Schulte Road, Tracy, CA 95376

Landmark: Corner of MacArthur Drive

Reception & Life Celebration:

Join us to celebrate Von's life with stories, laughter, and memories:

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Location: VFW Hall, 12455 W Ripon Road, Ripon, CA 95366

In lieu of flowers:

The family kindly requests donations be made in Von's memory to the Wounded Warrior Project.

