

Roger Donnelly Fiack

October 31, 1946 ~ July 5, 2025

Roger Donnelly Fiack passed away on Saturday, July 5, at home, in the arms of loved ones and surrounded by the Sutter Buttes.

The son of Joe and Gene Fiack, and brother to Nancy, Dave, Paul and Jim. Roger was raised in Tracy, CA, in a hardworking, hard-playing farm family.

A proud graduate of Tracy High School, Class of '64, Roger was known for his humor, athleticism, and sharp wit. He went on to attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where he majored in Farm Management - and unofficially minored in football, and rabble-rousing.



During the Vietnam War, he served two years in Germany as an Air Traffic Controller. After his discharge he moved to Reno, bartending at Harrah's Casino to save up for his dream of owning a farm of his own. While in Reno he met a pretty blackjack dealer, Jane Mattingly, who soon became part of the Fiack family.

Roger and Jane settled in Meridian, on 20 acres with a small house and a sweet dog, and eventually, a couple of tiny little farm hands. Their daughter, Alicia arrived one summer, followed the next fall by Sara. The kids grew, the farming operation expanded, and in the early '90s the family moved to Sutter where they were never far away from a farm chore or a broken sprinkler head.

Though Roger and Jane eventually went their separate ways, he eventually reconnected with his college sweetheart, Joyce Schmidt, who became his beloved companion (and the only person willing to deal with his idiosyncrasies) for the past 20 years.

Roger lived a life marked by booming laughs, midday naps, curiosity, travel, and a tenacious drive to rid his orchard of squirrels. He set the standard for self-sufficiency and hard work; he didn't hesitate to lend a hand, but he would also give you a razzing while doing it. He was sarcastic, never got used to losing at dominoes, and was everyone's favorite bartender until the end.

Roger is survived by his daughters, Alicia Fiack of Grass Valley, Sara Fiack of Chico; a very good friend, Joyce Schmidt of Monterey; sister, Nancy Kahn of Roseville; brothers, Dave Fiack of Parker, CO, Jim Fiack of Chico.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Paul Fiack, also of Chico.

Roger passing leaves a blank space in the lives of many cousins, nieces, nephews, friends, neighbors - and one reluctant cat.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to your favorite charity, plant a tree, or buy CALIFORNIA almonds.

Memorial services are pending.

Please contact Ullrey Memorial Chapel for details (530) 418-0189.