



## Donald Andrew Luvisi

July 15, 1936 - July 10, 2024

Donald (Don) Andrew Luvisi, a beloved figure in the world of horticulture and viticulture, passed away on July 10, 2024, in Bakersfield, California. He was 87 years old.

Born in 1936 and raised on a vineyard in Calistoga, California, Don developed a lifelong passion for growing plants, particularly grapes and orchids. His early experiences on the family vineyard set the foundation for a remarkable career in viticulture.

Don pursued his academic dreams at UC Davis, earning degrees in horticulture and viticulture. His professional journey began as a UC Davis Cooperative Extension farm advisor in Hanford, California. Later, he and his wife, Mickie, relocated to Bakersfield, where Don embarked on a distinguished career at the Kern County Cooperative Extension as a viticulturist.

In addition to his professional achievements, Don served proudly in the United States Army National Guard, retiring with the rank of Major after many years of dedicated service.

Even after retiring from the Kern County Cooperative Extension in 1999, Don remained an active and valued member of the community, continuing his work as an emeritus employee for many years. His expertise and passion for viticulture led him to travel the world, offering his knowledge to growers in Chile, Australia, Argentina, Greece, South Africa, and Mexico.

Don's love for life extended beyond his professional endeavors. He found immense joy in making food, drinking wine, and sharing it with others, often

finding happiness in the kitchen or among the vines of his vineyard.

A testament to his commitment to education and community, Don recently established the Don and Mickie Luvisi Family Agriculture Scholarship at his alma mater, Calistoga Junior/Senior High School. This scholarship will continue to inspire and support future generations of agricultural enthusiasts. Don's legacy is one of passion, dedication, and generosity. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, colleagues, and the many individuals whose lives he touched throughout his remarkable journey.

Visitation, Rosary and Mass will be held on July 30, 2024 at St. Francis Catholic Church in Bakersfield beginning at 8:30 am with a celebration of life to follow in the church hall. Graveside services will be held at Holy Cross Cemetery in St. Helena, California on August 1, 2024 at 10:30am with a celebration of life to follow at Highlands Christian fellowship Church in Calistoga, California.

# Cemetery Details

## Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery

2121 Spring Street  
St. Helena, CA 94574

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 30. 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM (PT)

St. Francis of Assisi Parish  
900 H. Street  
Bakersfield, CA 93304

## Rosary

JUL 30. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (PT)

St. Francis Catholic Parish  
900 H Street  
Bakersfield, CA 93304

## Mass

JUL 30. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

St. Francis Catholic Parish  
900 H Street  
Bakersfield, CA 93304

## Graveside Service

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AUG 1. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (PT)

Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery  
2121 Spring Street  
St. Helena, CA 94574

# Tribute Wall

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“ I worked for George Leavitt in UC Extension in Madera County. We went to a grape meeting in Davis and had the pleasure of sharing the evening with Don. Over the years I learned from him as well as other Farm Advisors. He will be missed by many.

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**Tome Martin-Duvall** - August 12, 2024 at 12:55 AM

LB

“ I worked with Don for 11 years at the Farm and Home Advisors office. Some of my favorite memories were when we spent hours and hours following all the research on Flame Seedless grapes and working together through many long nights harvesting wine grapes with mechanical harvesters in Lost Hills. Don was so passionate about his work. I truly loved working with him. Prayers to the whole family. Love Lyn Beurmann

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**Lyn Beurmann** - July 26, 2024 at 12:19 PM

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“ *The entire Wildcat community is deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Mr. Donald Luvisi. On behalf of everyone at Calistoga Joint Unified School District, please accept our heartfelt condolences during this difficult time.*

*Mr. Luvisi, along with his wife Ms. Mickie Luvisi, was not only a generous scholarship donor, but also a true champion of education and opportunity. His contributions have made a profound impact on the lives of our students, opening doors to dreams and aspirations that might have otherwise remained out of reach.*

*Please know that our thoughts are with you and your family. We hope you find comfort in the cherished memories and the enduring legacy of Mr. Luvisi's kindness and generosity.*

*Calistoga Joint Unified School District*

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**Carla Surber** - July 19, 2024 at 01:54 PM