



## Arthur "Art" Raymond Van Damme Jr.

July 15, 1952 - March 2, 2020

Arthur R. Van Damme, Jr.

1952 - 2020

Arthur "Art" Raymond Van Damme, Jr., 67, a long-time resident of Napa, California passed away peacefully Monday, March 2nd. He was surrounded by his wife and close friends following a brief illness.

Art was born July 15, 1952, in Maywood, Illinois, the son of the late Arthur Raymond and Dorothy Josephine (Van Goethem) Van Damme. He graduated from Granada Hills High School in California. Shortly after graduation, Art became a resident of Vine Village Ranch in Napa where he met his wife, Twila Van Damme.

Art worked at Vine Village Ranch for more than forty years with the landscaping and building maintenance teams. Throughout the years he helped take care of the vineyards, fruit trees, garden and many different animals. He also has lots of mowing under his belt. Art took pride in his work and loved being outdoors.

Art loved to tell the story about how he and Twila met. When he first saw Twila, he told his family she would one day become his wife. They had a big wedding and lived independently for many years. They were both very involved in the Vine Village Day Program and several years ago moved back

to Vine Village as the first-ever married couple.

Arthur was a kind and gentle man. He was extremely funny and when you least expected, he would quietly make a joke bringing laughter and happiness. His number one priority was taking care of his “sweetie” and making sure Twila was happy. Art and Twila were very involved in the Napa Special Olympics. Arthur was a coach for every sport you can imagine and Twila participated in many sports; often being coached by Art.

Art was also known for his passion for all things related to fire service. Art was a frequent visitor to nearby fire stations and he relished the time he could spend just hanging out, listening to calls, and being in the environment of Napa’s fire service. He had the opportunity to visit many fire and training stations from Chicago to Long Beach with family and friends. A highlight was visiting a simulated burning building, using the fire hose, driving the truck and wearing all the heavy gear.

Art is survived by his “sweetie” of 43 years, Twila Frances Cheyne Van Damme, also a resident of Vine Village Ranch; his two sisters Nancy Stompor and her husband Joseph, of Chicago, Illinois, Sandra Mummert and her husband Michael, of Glendale, Arizona and sister-in-law Janell Clemons of Lodi, CA. Art also leaves behind many nieces and nephews. He will be missed by friends and staff at Vine Village, who he considered family, and many close friends.

A service to celebrate Art’s life will be held 11:00 a.m. Friday, March 13, 2020 at Treadway & Wigger Funeral Chapel, 2383 Napa-Vallejo Highway. Graveside services will follow on the grounds of Napa Valley Memorial Park. The family will also be welcoming friends & family who wish to pay their respects on Thursday, March 12 between 2 and 4 p.m, also at the funeral home.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in Arthur's memory to Vine Village, 4059 Old Sonoma Road, Napa, California 94559.

# Cemetery Details

## Napa Valley Memorial Park

2383 Napa Vallejo Highway  
Napa, CA 94558

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 12. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (PT)

Treadway & Wigger Funeral Chapel  
2383 Napa-Vallejo Highway  
Napa, CA 94558  
(707) 226-1828  
<https://www.treadwaywigger.com/>

## Service

MAR 13. 11:00 AM (PT)

Treadway & Wigger Funeral Chapel  
2383 Napa-Vallejo Highway  
Napa, CA 94558  
(707) 226-1828  
<https://www.treadwaywigger.com/>

# Tribute Wall

CC

“ My favorite memory of Arthur is when he helped coach my Special Olympics volleyball team in the 1999 state championships in Sacramento winning the gold medal in the 1999 Fall Classics when my team of the Napa Valley Stompers was undefeated through the volleyball tournament & beating Fresno County in the gold medal round, Thanks for the memories Arthur, I'll never forget you. Your #1 buddy, Curtis W. Clark

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**Curtis Clark** - February 16, 2024 at 08:42 PM

NG

“ I first met Arthur from Twila when they did Special Olympics bowling & track & field a very long time. I'm going to miss Arthur helping me out during bowling & he always had a smile on his face & never complained. Thanks for always being there Arthur, you'll be missed. Your friends Nancy & Mike Goodin & Suzy Godfrey

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**Nancy & Mike Goodin & Suzy Godfrey** - October 12, 2021 at 10:42 PM

SJ

“ I was lucky to be friends with Arthur for a very long time, he considered me a sister to him & his wife Twila was on my special olympics swim team for a very long time. I'm going to miss seeing Arthur around, because he helped me coach the swim team when Twila was on the swim team at tournaments. Thanks for being my friend. Your close friends Suzy & Mike Jordan & Cameron

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**Suzy Jordan** - March 07, 2021 at 06:14 PM

TF

“ I first met Arthur from Twila in 1989 when I joined the Napa Special Olympics, ever since then Arthur became a good close friend of mine for 31+ years, he coached me in swimming & volleyball & bowling. I'm really going to miss talking with Arthur, he had the heart of a champion. Thanks Arthur for everything you do, I'll remember you always & lucky to call you a friend & coach. My love & prayers are with Twila & the rest of the family, Arthur will be missed & loved by so many.

Timmy "The Fonz" - March 08, 2020 at 11:03 AM



“ 3 files added to the album Art Van Damme



Treadway & Wigger Funeral Chapel & Crematory - March 05, 2020 at 06:46 PM