



Donal James Forbes

October 24, 1935 - July 27, 2025

Donal James Forbes, 89, of Napa, California, passed away peacefully on July 27, 2025, after a brief illness.

Born on October 24, 1935, in Oakland, California, he was the third of six children born to John and Mary Forbes. He graduated from St. Elizabeth's High School in Oakland and worked various jobs before joining the Fire Department, where he began as a Hoseman and later became an Engineer. He proudly served the City of Oakland for 23 years. In addition, Donal was a talented builder in construction, a trade that was passed down to many in his family.

Donal loved his family and led by example through hard work and dedication. He had a deep love for music and passed it on to his children. He also loved car racing and in his youth held a title at the Oakland Speedway. He loved the ocean and found peace in its powerful presence. He enjoyed fishing at the Klamath River in Northern California and camping at Eagle Lake. He also

cherished the brotherhood he found in the fire department.

Perhaps most notable was his extraordinary gift for storytelling, his quick wit, and his fantastic sense of humor.

Donal is survived by his wife of 69 years, Darlene; their children Laureen and husband Kent, Doreen, Donal Jr., John, Karen, and Eric and wife Linda; 14 grandchildren; and many greatgrandchildren. He was preceded in death by their son Rick, his parents John and Mary Forbes, siblings Jack, Maureen, Eileen, and Kathleen, and his grandson Alex. He is also survived by his sister Patricia.

A Rosary will be held on Thursday, August 28th, at 10:30 a.m., followed by a Mass and Celebration of Life at 11:00 a.m. , both services at St. Apollinaris Catholic Church in Napa, California.

Because Donal loved the Redwoods, in lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to:

Save The Redwoods League: <https://secure.savetheredwoods.org/a/honor>

The family extends heartfelt thanks to the staff at Berkshire Assisted Living for their compassionate care.

Donal was deeply moved by President Abraham Lincoln's faith journey, especially Lincoln's grief over the loss of his son—something they shared in common. It inspired Donal to deepen his own relationship with God later in life, bringing him great peace. It was not

uncommon for him

to say to those he loved, “The most important relationship you will ever have is with the Lord.”

Cemetery Details

Napa Valley Memorial Park

2383 Napa-Vallejo Highway
Napa, CA 94558

Previous Events

Rosary

AUG 28. 10:30 AM (PT)

St. Apollinaris Catholic Church
3700 Lassen Street
Napa, CA 94558

Celebration of Life

AUG 28. 11:00 AM (PT)

St. Apollinaris Catholic Church
3700 Lassen Street
Napa, CA 94558

Private Committal

AUG 29 (PT)

Napa Valley Memorial Park
2383 Napa-Vallejo Highway
Napa, CA 94558

Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donal James Forbes.

August 27, 2025 at 02:26 AM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Donal James Forbes.



August 27, 2025 at 02:26 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Treadway & Wigger Funeral Chapel & Crematory - August 04, 2025 at 07:48 PM