
JOHN ARCHIE MORSE

John Archie Morse was born in Fresno, CA on January 14, 1929, to Ezra and Laura Morse. He was the fifth of seven children, Ezramae Morse Hickmon, Charles Lee Morse, Mattie Helen Morse Curtis, Curtis Eugene Morse, John Archie Morse, Wilbert Ardene Morse, and Marvene Gregory Morse. John loved sports and excelled at football, baseball, and hockey, among other sports. He played football for Edison High School in the 1940's, and was honored as "All League" for football as a back in 1945, and in 1946. He was inducted into the first group of honorees for the Edison High School Hall of Fame in 1997. He received a scholarship to play football at [University of California, Los Angeles](#), which he attended for a short time in 1948. He then transferred to Fresno State College, majored in Psychology and played football as a halfback, and baseball as a first baseman, for the "Bulldogs". John was honored multiple times as "Bulldog of the Week" by the Fresno Bee Newspaper. The Fresno Bee called him "The best running back and best defensive man on the team last year" in 1949. In 1950, The Fresno Bee called John "Johnny Morse, the speed burning veteran who played outstanding defensive ball and shined offensively", and that "he's a fine pro baseball prospect too". He was inducted into the Fresno State Baseball Hall of Fame in 2009. In 1951, after three and a half years at Fresno State College, John was courted by both the National Football League and the Far West Baseball League, and he chose a career as a professional baseball player. He played baseball as a third baseman from 1951 through 1956, and ended his career with the Western League playing for the Lincoln Chiefs. John met Luella Mae Kinzel, and they married on Armistice day in the mid 1950's. John was inducted into the United States [Army](#) and was honorably discharged. John spent his life after sports and the military primarily in Stockton and Fresno, CA, and he also spent several years in Mexico. After some years, he finished his course work at Fresno State and received his diploma in 2011, at the age of 83. John departed this life after a brief illness on December 21, 2014, at the age of 85, and was preceded in death by his mother Laura; father Ezra; and siblings, Ezramae, Helen, Curtis, Wilbert, and Marvene. John leaves behind his two children, Lachi Morse Richards, and Aaron Morse; and his brother, Charles Morse. A Viewing will be held at Jesse Coolies Funeral Home on January 6, 2014, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. A Funeral Service will be held at Jesse Coolies Funeral Home, 1830 S. Fruit Ave. Fresno, CA 93706, on January 7, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. A Burial will be held at the Sacramento Valley National VA Cemetery on January 9, 2014, at 11:30 a.m. All are invited to attend.

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