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Lyle V. Willet
October 17, 1922 - May 6, 2018
Lyle was born in Modesto, CA to parents Lyle and Ruby Willet. Lyle entered into eternal rest with his Lord on May 6, 2018.

Lyle grew up in Modesto and attended Shiloh Elementary School. He then graduated from Modesto High School as well as Modesto Junior College.

Joining the Navy during [WWII](#), Lyle was stationed at Guadalcanal. He was transferred to the Marines and was sent to Officer's Training School in New York at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Cornell University. Leaving the service in 1946, Lyle spent a year with the Modesto Reds as a pitcher.

At the end of that year, Lyle began to work for Sears Roebuck in Modesto. His success in the retail industry with Sears became a career spanning 37 years. As he advanced through many levels of management, he made multiple moves including San Francisco, Santa Rosa, Burbank and then returned to Modesto for several years. Following that he was transferred to Riverside and then to the Group Management Office in Seattle (WA). Lyle became a Store Manager in Paso (WA), then Bremerton (WA) and back to Modesto. As Store Manager in Modesto, he was instrumental in the planning and development of the opening of the new Sears store at the Vintage Faire Mall. He continued to manage the Modesto Sears store until retiring in 1974.

Lyle's community activities included; serving on the Board of Directors for Doctors Hospital, a life member of the Masonic Lodge, involved in the [Rotary Club](#) in multiple cities and also worked with a mentorship program for future retailers.

A lifelong outdoorsman, Lyle and his wife Jeanne (deceased), enjoyed years of retirement. Salmon fishing was a passion enjoyed by both and they spent much time on both the Klamath and Rogue Rivers with friends. Lyle was proud of the spinners he made for catching salmon.

Lyle was an avid trap shooter and won many championships, including those sponsored by the Shoshone and California Indian Trapshooting Clubs. Lyle's love of hunting led him to join the Newman Gun Club in 1971 and he remained a member for the rest of his life. This is where Lyle perfected his skills and became an excellent duck caller. His interests took Lyle and Jeanne to many states including Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Arizona and more. They pulled their travel trailer and enjoyed stopping to sight-see and enjoy local attractions while on their trips.

Lyle is preceded in death by his wife of 50+ years, Jeanne and his daughter Karen Solario. Lyle is survived by brothers Shruder and Rolyn Willet; daughters Judi Frick and Jeri Vaughan; multiple grandchildren, nieces, nephews and close friends.

Visitation will be Sunday, May 13th from 3 PM to 8 PM at Salas Brothers Funeral Chapel. Graveside services will be held at the Masonic Cemetery on Scenic Drive in Modesto on Monday, May 14 at 11 AM.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the [charity of your choice](#).

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*"During this time of deep
sorrow and pain, know that
you are..."*

- MARCEL T

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