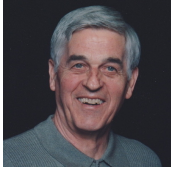


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**Richard Joseph Doecker(1936 - 2016)**

Richard Joseph Doecker

August 11, 1936 - October 7, 2016

Visalia

Richard Joseph Doecker, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, died on October 7, 2016, at his home in Visalia at the age of 80.

Richard was born in Annaheim, in Saskatchewan, Canada on August 11, 1936 and was the youngest of twelve children. He is preceded in death by his parents Bernard and Mary Doecker, five brothers, Joseph, Francis, Bernard, Raymond, and Jerome Doecker, and three sisters Sister Maria, OSU, Auddie Dennis, and Rosemary Revering.

He is survived by his wife of 30 years Vivian, and their 4 children: Greg Doecker of Arizona, Stephanie Davis of Kingsburg, Tony Diaz (Julie) and Sabrina Jimenez both of Visalia. He is also survived by 10 grandchildren Gabby Diaz, Tyler Davis (Kylie), Savannah Diaz, Trenten Davis, Mallorie Diaz, Darian Jimenez, Jared Davis, Gabriel Davis, Angela Davis, and Jonathan Jimenez, four great-grandchildren Braxley Davis, Ryker Davis, Eloise Davis, and Maverick Davis and three siblings Ted and Donald Doecker and Theresa Kosokowsky of Canada.

After graduating from high school at St. Peter's Benedictine Monastery where he was studying to be a priest he then took another calling and began his baseball career pitching for the Saskatoon Moores. While with the Moores, he was scouted and recruited by Roy Taylor of the College of Sequoias and Pete Biden of Fresno State where he was their top pitcher for four years. During the summers he played for Moose Jaw and Saskatoon in the Western Canada Baseball League. After graduating from Fresno State he played five years of professional baseball in the Pittsburgh Pirates' organization. Highlights from his baseball career would be helping the Moores win the Saskatchewan Provincial Junior Baseball Championship in 1955. Also, helping the College of Sequoias win the California State Baseball Championship in 1957 and Fresno State get to its first College World Series in 1959.

After graduating from Fresno State where he earned a Master's Degree in History he returned to Visalia to begin his teaching career at Mt. Whitney High School for 13 years where he was also a coach, counselor and dean. In 1979 he opened Golden West High School and served as Principal for 17 years where he developed strong bonds between his staff, students, and their families and served as a mentor, friend, and champion of the Golden West family.

A celebration of his life will be held at the Visalia Elk's Lodge, October 17, 2016 at 1:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to: Friends of Golden West Foundation c/o Dick Doecker Fund at 1717 N. McAuliff Rd Visalia, CA 93291. Family would also like to express their gratitude to the Sojourn Hospice team who went above and beyond with their care and support for our family during this difficult time.

Arrangements provided by Smith Family Chapel, Exeter. Condolences may be made at [www.smithfamilychapel.com](http://www.smithfamilychapel.com)

**Funeral Home****Smith Family Chapel**

505 East Pine Street Exeter, CA 93221  
(559) 592-9119

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