

Tony William De Groot

April 4, 1935 – September 15, 2015



It is with great sadness and joy that the De Groot Family announces the passing of Tony William De Groot. Sadness because he has left us and joy because he is now with the Lord. Tony, at the young age of 80, passed away in a plane accident while on a fishing trip in Alaska. He was doing what he loved.

The youngest of 11 siblings, Tony was raised in Bennekom, the Netherlands. During WW II, his family was involved with the Dutch Resistance and he was impressed with the bravery of the American soldiers. At the age of 21, Tony decided to emigrate to the United States. He married his fiancée, Betty, on May 15, 1957, in Hollandale, Minnesota. In 1959 Tony and Betty moved to southern California where, five years later, they began what is now a successful dairy farm operation in the Central Valley. Tony and Betty are the loving parents of: Ingrid and John Hamar, Elizabeth and Don Veenendaal, Tony and Rochelle De Groot,

William and Allyson De Groot, Tamara Majors, and Willy Arts. They have 32 grandchildren including spouses and 14 great-grandchildren.

Tony loved God fiercely. He was a founding member of the Visalia Christian Reformed Church, established in 1965. He enjoyed singing in the choir as well as leading song service. Tony was a youth group leader for many years and hosted Bible studies with Betty in their home. He was an example to his family, teaching them about living out their faith in Jesus Christ.

Tony was very passionate about Betty and the life they created together. They adored each other's company in the simplest of ways. They enjoyed watching the sunrise and sunset together as well as watching the hummingbirds while having breakfast. Tony loved all his children, no matter the age, and treasured each moment he spent with them.

For many years, Tony was involved in and supported the dairy farm community. He loved sharing his knowledge of the Ag industry and served on boards for the Rabobank and Alltech as well as numerous other agricultural companies. Tony considered his business contacts to be close friends. He was a role model and enjoyed sharing his faith with anyone. He also fulfilled Betty's dream of owning a horse, and eventually developed DG Bar Ranch with his partner, Willy Arts.

Tony had a way of making everyone feel special. He was known for spending hours in the cafe cooking and baking up a storm; generously sharing hospitality with all who entered his life. Tony had a sense of adventure and lived his life to the fullest until the moment God brought him home.

The De Groot Family feels blessed to have had such a great Husband, Dad, and Opa. His legacy will live on in all of them.

If you wish to remember Tony, the family asks that you make a donation to Visalia Christian Reformed Church, 1030 South Linwood St., Visalia, CA 93277. Please put "Church House" in the memo field. The Church House is a ministry in an at-risk-neighborhood of Visalia seeking to provide a safe environment to children and a space where women can grow in Christ.