



## Edmund Francis Serpas

January 9, 1936 - May 9, 2019

Edmund "Ed" Francis Serpas, 83, passed away on Thursday, May 9th at his home in Fairfield, CA, surrounded by his loving family.

Ed was born in Fairfield on January 9th, 1936 to Manuel and Rose (Lazovich) Serpas. He attended Armijo High School where he played football, baseball and basketball and graduated in 1953. He then went to Vallejo Junior College (where he played football and received the "All-American" award) before accepting a football scholarship to Utah State University.

Ed married the love of his life and wife of 53 years, Joan (Durham), in 1965, and they started a family.

Ed worked as a teacher in Fairfield for over 40 years and coached many of those years, impacting countless young lives. He taught at Center Elementary and coached at Armijo until the opening of Vanden High School in 1964 where he was asked to start the athletic program. He was the school's first football coach, baseball coach and athletic director. Additionally, he taught swimming and driver's training and worked many years as an agent for R.W. Durham & Co.

Ed, in his younger years, also proudly served as an active reservist in the US Marines.

Ed loved to travel, spend time with his family and support everything his children and grandchildren did, taking great pleasure in attending all of their events. His greatest passion in life was sports- playing, coaching, and attending games for as long as he was able and always watching every sport on TV.

Ed is survived by his wife Joan Serpas, daughter Shawna Serpas-Berber (Modesto), son Jay Serpas, grandchildren Elysia and Joseph Castro and great-grand-daughter Olivia Castro, as well as his brother Charles (Barbara) Serpas, and his nieces and nephews whom he loved. He was preceded in death by his parents.

A Celebration of Life for Ed will be held on Tuesday, May 21st at 12 PM at Bryan-Braker Funeral Home, 1850 W. Texas St., Fairfield, CA, 707-425-4697, [www.bryanbraker.com](http://www.bryanbraker.com).

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Matt Garcia Foundation, P.O. Box, 3301, Fairfield, CA 94533, a youth-based nonprofit organization Ed loved .

# Comments

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Dave Sinclair** - May 17 at 10:16 AM

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“ I am grateful to Mr. Serpas for allowing me to play the position I wanted to play, and the position I knew I could do well at if given the opportunity as a member of the 1971 Vanden High varsity football team. I played during a time when the consensus among certain people was Black players didn't have the intelligence or aptitude to play the position of quarterback. I've enjoyed lifelong memories of that year because he gave me a chance to do something I loved to do. I spoke with him about it at a reunion a few years ago. His reaction was he played the individual he felt was the best competitor at the position, and wasn't concerned about the individual's "color", or what anyone thought about it. That's what I remember him for the most.

I was secretly a little fearful of him because of his commanding presence. He had a way of motivating you without berating you or yelling at you, but you always knew he was serious by the look on his face and the inflection in his voice.

**Michael Lipkin** - May 17 at 12:02 AM

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“ My precious dad,  
I am eternally grateful to you for your love and support my entire life. I couldn't have asked for a better father or a better grandfather for my children. I love you more than words could ever explain, and I will keep you with me in my heart until the day we meet again.  
Forever your Nonee  
Shawna

**Shawna Serpas** - May 12 at 10:38 PM



“ Coach you were bigger than life. A mans man and a quiet humble servant that I failed to appreciate until after I had graduated. You served each one of us every day giving us the best of all you had to give. RIP and you will never be forgotten. Semper fi.

**Danny Hughes** - May 17 at 03:55 AM



“ Ed Serpes was a great man enjoyed working with him, RIP

**Susan Carlson** - May 17 at 10:09 AM