Obituary of Joe Galleano

Joe Galleano passed away on January 2, 2016 at the age of 84. He was born to Francesco “Frank” Galleano (born in Bene Vagienna, Piemonte, Italy) and Maria Ferrua (born in Trinità, Piemonte, Italy). According to his birth certificate, Joe Galleano was born May 4, 1931. If you asked his mother, however, he was delivered by his aunt prior to midnight on May 3 on the Madera farm on which he lived and worked his entire life. He attended the old Howard School, Madera Union High School, and even jumped out of the window of Miss Jardin’s English class. Jumping Joe, as he was called, starred on the basketball team, was an avid member of the FFA program, and caught the greased pig at the Cow Palace in 1949.

On August 6, 1950 he married Pauline Astin, the love of his life. They had 5 children: Paula, Karen, David, Linda, and Roger. Over the last 65 years, Joe farmed cotton, corn, Corn Nuts, black-eyed peas, tomatoes, alfalfa, and grapes. He also raised dairy heifers and helped his children and grandchildren with their 4-H projects.

Joe was instrumental in forming the Madera Young Farmers Association in the 1950s and served as its president. He won the California Young Farmer, State Farm Improvement Contest four consecutive years, followed by the five-year award. He also became the State Young Farmer President in 1964. The National Chamber of Commerce named Joe, along with three others, National Outstanding Young Farmer in 1967. These activities lead to his active involvement in the Madera County Farm Bureau, where he served as a director for more than two decades, ultimately served as the board’s president, and was District 23 Director to the California Farm Bureau Federation. He devoted many years of service to the California Cotton Growers, California Farm Bureau Cotton Advisory Committee, the American Farm Bureau Cotton Advisory Committee, and served as President of the California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors for over a decade. Joe was named the 1997 Madera County Senior Farmer of the Year by the Madera Chamber of Commerce. He was a founding member of the California Pest Control Board, served at its president, and continued to be a member until his passing.

Some of Joe’s greatest enjoyments included sharing ice cream with his grandchildren, fixing their bikes, and raising his German Shepherds. Joe was also an avid NASCAR fan who raced his own super modified cars, helped his sons in their own racing pursuits, and was instrumental, along with Vernon Martinazzi and Charles Gragnani, in the construction of the Madera Raceway.

Joe is survived by his wife of 65 years, Pauline, his 5 children, Paula Falaschi (Robert), Karen Evans (Roger), David Galleano, Linda Galleano Gunter, and Roger Galleano, 12 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren.

The family would like to express their deepest gratitude to the staff of Saint Agnes Hospital, especially his nurses Laura and Tina, and his doctors, Drs. Steven Chooljian, Robert Lemon, Vincent Gaudiani, Philip Hinton, and James Joye. The family would also like to thank Dr. Frank Ambrose for his years of tireless veterinary service to Joe’s beloved dogs.

Visitation will be held on: Thursday, January 7, 2016 from 2:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. at Jay Chapel, Madera, CA.

Funeral Service will be held on: Friday, January 8, 2016, 2:00 P.M. at Jay Chapel, Madera, CA

Interment to follow at: Arbor Vitae, Madera, CA

Donation in lieu of flowers: Checks should be made out to: Madera County 4-H Leaders Counsel, 328 S. Madera Avenue, Madera, California 93637 or St. Agnes Hospital, St. Agnes Hospital Hospice, 6729 N. Willow Avenue suite 103, Fresno, CA 93710