

# 104 Years Old



## Lawrence Shoemaker

August 18, 1920 – October 5, 2024

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Larry Shoemaker, a beloved member of the Deaf community and a cherished husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Born on August 18, 1920, in Hawthorne, California. He passed away peacefully at the age of 104, surrounded by his loved ones. Larry lived an extraordinary life!

Larry was the fourth of eleven children in a large and loving family. His life changed forever when, at the age of seven, he enrolled at the California School for the Deaf (CSD) in Berkeley. There, he embraced a newfound community, excelling both academically and athletically. Larry's passion for sports led him to set records in track, particularly in the 440 and 880 relay races, achievements that remained a source of pride throughout his life.



CSD-Berkeley High School Graduation

Known for his warmth, humor, and deep commitment to his family and friends, Larry's playful nature often shone through in his interactions, especially with Rose Hoy, the love of his life. They shared many decades of marriage, raising five children and building a lasting legacy of love, leadership, and community engagement.



Taken at Granddaughter's Wedding

Together, Larry and Rose were well known figures in the Deaf community of the San Joaquin Valley, where they served as deacons in the Deaf church. They were instrumental in helping Deaf children and families access education and opportunities at CSD, advocating tirelessly for Deaf children.



Deaf Church in Visalia (above) Picnic at Roaring Park Fresno (below)

Larry's leadership extended to many areas of his life. Along with other committee members, he organized and operated the Central Valley Deaf Picnic for over 26 years. He also helped establish the "Silent Five" bowling league for Deaf bowlers and co-founded the Central Valley Chapter of the Far West Golf Association of the Deaf. In recognition of his contributions, Larry was inducted into the FWGAD Hall of Fame in 2007.



Larry's career as a carpenter spanned many years, during which he built homes across the Bay Area and Central Valley. He retired in 1985, leaving behind a legacy of craftsmanship, dedication, and integrity in his work.



Housing construction in North Hanford

He is survived by his five children, five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews, all of whom brought him immense joy.



### Family Celebrates Larry's 104 Birthday at Fenton's Creamery in Oakland

Larry Shoemaker will forever be remember for his leadership and unwavering dedication to his family and his community. His legacy will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

Visitation will take place Friday October 18th from 4PM to 8PM at People's Funeral Chapel, 501 N. Douty Street, Hanford California 93230. The Memorial Service will be held on Saturday October 19th at 11:30AM at the chapel with a reception to follow.