

## Orval Chad Lambirth

March 20, 1941 - October 3, 2017

RAMONA — Orval Chad Lambirth passed away on October 3, 2017 from complications due to a stroke. He was born on March 20, 1941 in Oskaloosa, IA.

Chad, as everyone knew him, was the child of Roland Lambirth and Doris Moore, both legally blind. Roland worked as a piano tuner and Doris was a published author of poetry. In his youth, he had achieved the rank of Eagle Scout and was inducted as a member of the Order of the Arrow, the National Honor Society of the Boy Scouts of America.

During his adolescence, Chad's parents moved the family first to Oregon and the eventually to the San Diego area. Chad graduated from Hoover High School in 1959, and served in the U.S. Navy as a submariner from Oct. 28, 1959 to Oct. 14, 1963, with reserve duty until Oct. 27, 1965. His last duty assignment was aboard the USS Grayback.

Chad settled in San Diego County after leaving the Navy. He soon married and had two children, Michelle and Jason. He brought



his technical expertise to service with the State of California, working as a traffic planner for Cal-Trans for the next 38 years. He was incredibly well-respected in this position and even after retiring, was frequently called on for advice and assistance.

Chad owned and operated a dog boarding kennel and was well known in the AKC community for showing first Irish Setters and then Collies. He continued his work with dogs throughout his life, serving as a showmanship and obedience trainer and judge for many local 4-H clubs and county fairs. He also continued his work with the Cub Scouts and the Boy Scouts of America as a leader for many years.

Not long after becoming a 4-H leader, he became interested in breeding, raising, and showing market swine. Chad, along with his later wife, Frances, became some of the foremost authorities on show quality animals for the local 4-H and FFA clubs. For many years, they operated the Pork on the Rocks Ranch in Ramona and at its height, maintained nearly 350 head of swine. Later they expanded into breeding and providing marker goats for the same clubs and fairs. Chad and Fran's focus was always on the education of the youth and they became well-known nationwide for their service.

In 1993, Chad married Frances Evans Smith after many years of close friendship. Fran's children had long thought of Chad as family and he had long felt the same about them. Together, Chad and Fran enjoyed many years of happiness, often traveling when they had time between animal breeding seasons or local fairs. No two people seemed to understand each other better. It's been said even recently, that Fran was

the love of Chad's life. He stood by her side and walked with her every step of the way through her battle with cancer.

Chad Lambirth was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Frances; and stepdaughter, Kim Nae'ole. He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Michelle (Tom) Sturm of Olympia, WA; son and daughter-in-law Jason (Kelly) Lambirth of Ramona, CA; step daughter, Keri Napoleon of National City, CA; son-in-law, Hebert Nae'ole of Laie, HI; step-son and daughter-in-law Kermey (Angela) Furchner of Poway, CA; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Chad Lambirth was interred at the Nuevo Memory Gardens in Ramona, CA, on October 9, 2017, during a private service with his immediate family.

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Chad's name to the Ramona Junior Fair, PO BOX 618, Ramona, CA 92065 or to the Eastern San Diego County Junior Fair, PO BOX 1202, Lakeside, CA 92040.