



Richard Clarke Avellar

February 24, 1936 - April 19, 2025

Richard Clarke Avellar, known to his friends and family as "Rich," passed away peacefully at his home in Forestville, CA, on April 19, 2025, at the age of 89. Born on February 24, 1936, in Santa Rosa, CA, Richard was a lifelong resident of Sonoma County who touched the lives of many with his kindness, humor, and hardworking spirit.

Rich grew up in Santa Rosa, where he attended James Monroe Elementary School and later graduated from Santa Rosa High School. His passion for hands-on work was evident from an early age, excelling in shop classes and winning first place in woodworking at the Sonoma County Fair in 1954. Alongside his brother, he would craft toys, showcasing his ingenuity and love for creating.

In his youth, Rich worked various jobs, from picking prunes to becoming an auto mechanic, machinist, cabinet maker, and tradesman. Eventually, he became a self-employed general contractor, proudly holding his license for 40 years. His work ethic and skills led him to a career with Paul Wright Construction, where he honed his craft, eventually starting his own business as a general contractor.

Rich's community involvement was one of his great joys. He volunteered at the Forestville Youth Park, the Forestville Fire Department, and coached Little

League Baseball, always giving back to the place he called home. His playful and humorous nature made him a beloved figure—people quickly warmed to him, often within just a few moments of meeting.

Rich had many hobbies and interests. He was a talented musician, with a particular love for playing the piano and harmonica. He enjoyed playing games, especially Pinochle, and loved spending time with his family and friends, whether it was golfing, boating, fishing, trap shooting, or enjoying the outdoors while camping in his RV. Rich was an avid fan of snow and water skiing, bocce, and pool, but above all, he was happiest when working with his hands. His workshop was his sanctuary, where he spent countless hours building, repairing, and restoring everything from go-carts to motorcycles, tractors to cars.

Above all, Rich was known for his ability to fix, build, and create anything, with a remarkable ability to find innovative solutions to challenges. His family and friends will forever remember him as a man who could do it all.

Rich is survived by his adoring wife of 66 ½ years, Sharon Avellar. Children, Shelly Laursen (Daughter) Patrick Laursen (Husband) and William Avellar (Son) Danita Avellar (Wife) ; His grandchildren, Jenna Urben, Stacey Laursen, Alyssa Avellar, Daniel Avellar, and Delia Barrio; and his great-grandchild, Eric Urben. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

No services are planned at this time.