



## Dale M. Shelly

July 6, 1943 - September 22, 2019

Dale M. Shelly, 76, of Vallejo passed away peacefully and surrounded by his family on Sunday September 22, 2019 at John Muir Medical Center in Concord, California.

Dale was born in Denver, Colorado. He was a veteran of the United States Navy and served from 1963 to 1966 on the U.S.S. Hancock Aircraft Carrier and later as a Naval Reserve Officer. He worked for the Federal Government for 33 years and retired as a Foreman from Mare Island in 1993. He had called Vallejo his home since 1985. Upon retirement, he went to work for the State of California Department of Corrections and worked as a Correctional Officer for five years at California State Prison Solano in Vacaville.

Dale was known to his 12 step community as "Grateful Dale". He was an active member for 36 years and had a passion for recovery and helping others. Dale had strong spiritual beliefs, a huge presence, and a big heart. He had a quick wit and a great sense of humor. Dale was an avid golfer and 49ers fan but what he loved most was spending time with family, his grandchildren, and his grand-dogs Mei Mei and Papaya.

Dale is survived by his wife of 24 years, Kathleen Kawecki-Shelly; daughter Beth Vogel; stepsons and daughters-in-law Lewis and Kathy Kawecki and Ryan and Julie Kawecki; grandchildren Austin, Skyler, Grace and Christopher.

He was known to them as Papa, Grandpa and Goofy Grandpa and he played an active role in their lives.

Memorial services will be held at 2pm on Sunday, November 3, at Veterans Memorial Hall, 1150 First Street, Benicia, California and is open to the public. A private family burial with military honors will be held at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, California.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

NOV 3. 2:00 PM (PT)

Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall  
1150 1st St  
Benicia, CA 94510-3221  
(707) 745-1769

# Tribute Wall



“ *I’m so sorry to read about dale’s passing. I got to work with him at the prison and we spoke of recovery and his passion for helping others. Dale was unique and funny, if you got to hear his hearing aid make that noise you were a friend. lol, he is still missed and talked about to this day. I’m sure his family and friends would be glad to know. Anyone can celebrate, live by the 12 steps. Even if you don’t drink. One day at a time. Alan Abreu*

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**alan abreu** - August 12, 2025 at 02:44 PM



“ *Dale M. Shelly*

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November 29, 2022 at 08:20 PM



“ *Kathleen, You and Dale have both been a source of inspiration and laughter in my recovery. You showed many of us what love looks like and for that I will be eternally grateful. I never saw Dale show anything but reverence and gratitude for his life and all the gifts he received in sobriety. (You were a HUGE gift to each other!)*

*My heart hurts for you and your family. Nothing will ever replace the void his death leaves in your life. Just take a little comfort in knowing how many lives you have both touched as we all trudge the road of happy destiny.*

*Cynthia Howard*

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**Cynthia Howard** - October 19, 2019 at 01:43 PM

RH

“ I worked with Dale on several SRA's in San Diego as a Shop 51 foreman and Waterfront Planner. He was always a great team player and I enjoyed working with him and his crew. I never realized that he was on the USS Hancock, I was also on the ship during his time on the ship but never had the pleasure of knowing him then.

God bless his family and please accept my condolences. We lost another great former Mare Island employee and sailor.

Ron Higdon

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Ron Higdon - October 16, 2019 at 05:37 PM

DS

“ I worked with Dale as a Rigger also. He was a good supervisor and a good man.

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David Soares - October 15, 2019 at 08:42 PM

CG

“ Spent time rigging at Mare Island with Dale during my early years. We also use to play a little racket ball before I went to the Diver locker and then moved to Washington State when Mare Island closed. Always considered Dale a friend. He helped mentor many young riggers. Sorry to hear of his passing.

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Charles Graham - October 14, 2019 at 12:53 AM

MS

“ To my cohort of irreverence on Monday nites Crockett gathering, I'll miss your quick wit and deep insight into all the insanity we endure. May the breeze blow at your back and the sun shine on your face as you embark on the next chapter of The Great Adventure! See you down the line old buddy. "Quiet Marc" Schoenitzer

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Marc Schoenitzer - October 08, 2019 at 04:11 AM

DV

“ So sorry to hear about Dale. I met Dale out at Blue Rock on the golf course. I played many rounds of golf with Dale and always had a great time. Dale , hit them long and strait in heaven my friend. We will play again my friend.

*Dan Vogelwohl*

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**Dan Vogelwohl** - September 29, 2019 at 02:40 PM