



## Melvin "Dutch" C. Grusendorf

March 11, 1930 - March 15, 2021

Melvin Charles "Dutch" Grusendorf was born March 11, 1930 in Lordsburg, NM, to Carl Houston Grusendorf and Nathalie Aldrich Grusendorf a lifelong resident of Arizona, his birth in New Mexico provided endless fodder for the stories he loved to tell. If you asked Dutch how he was, he was either "Fine as a frog hair split three ways," or "Chipper as a squirrel with a new nut tree." If, instead, you asked how he felt, he would reply, "with my fingers". Dutch married Betty Lippse of Willcox in 1954. Eleven months later (to the day!), they welcomed Jeanine. Two years later, they welcomed Wayne and Elaine (twins!). Betty, Jeanine (Manuel Sanchez), Elaine (Rich Barber) and Wayne (Suzanne Grusendorf) survive him. Tiffany (Rick Estrada) was born to Jeanine and Manuel, followed by Erika (Aaron George), Mariah (Chris Legere) and Austin, all born to Elaine and Rich. He was also blessed with a great-granddaughter (Skylar George) who also survives him. Dutch joined the Army in 1952 and used his experience working for the US Geological Service, to survey the Philippine Islands. He and Betty spent 34 years in Bowie, raising their children and working in the community. In 1988 they moved to Phoenix to be closer to their grandchildren. Dutch began to hike Piestewa Peak in Phoenix. He enjoyed this hike (sometimes twice daily), until his early 80's. Dutch was a man of many talents and interests. At various times in his life, he:  
Owned and operated Bowie Lumber Company  
Owned Cholla Construction  
Developed a custom operation to mine a "rare earth" found north of his home town  
Operated heavy equipment for several Arizona mining and construction

companies Sold Real Estate Worked for architectural firms in the Phoenix area. A celebration of life will be held at 2966 East Larkspur, Phoenix, Arizona on May 2, 2021 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Light refreshments will be served. Please come prepared to share your stories with family and friends. We know there will be a lot of them !Jeanine can be reached at [grusendorfjl@gmail.com](mailto:grusendorfjl@gmail.com) Elaine can be reached [ategbarber@gmail.com](mailto:ategbarber@gmail.com)

In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to: AZ Lions Vision & Hearing Foundation, 3124 E. Roosevelt Street, Phoenix, AZ 85008 Website: [www.ls-hf.org](http://www.ls-hf.org) or Hospice of the Valley, 1510 E. Flower Street, Phoenix, AZ 85014 [www.hov.org](http://www.hov.org)

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAY 2. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (MT)

Private Home  
2966 E. Larkspur  
Phoenix, AZ

# Tribute Wall



“ *Melvin "Dutch" C. Grusendorf*

January 30, 2023 at 12:50 AM



“ *I treasure the memories of this man his father wife and son. When he had a friend it was locked forever. I met in the early 60's in a hardware store made from a bank. His good friend Hilburn moved to Hatch, nm and he went to help put in cement ditches.. He didn't stay but remained friends till his death in 2006. I was the old well drillers son that watched and respected this man.. God Bless You Dutch and your family.... digger mcbee*

**Digger mcbee I** - April 27, 2021 at 09:17 PM



*Thank you for this comment - it means so much to our family.  
Jeanine Grusendorf*

**JL Grusendorf** - April 29, 2021 at 03:00 PM



“ *Nancy Guerrero lit a candle in memory of  
Melvin "Dutch" C. Grusendorf*



**Nancy Guerrero** - April 01, 2021 at 12:59 PM



*Nancy - thank you for the candle in memory of Dutch. The family  
appreciates the gesture.  
Jeanine Grusendorf*

**JL Grusendorf** - April 29, 2021 at 03:00 PM



“ *I am so sorry to here about Dutch. He was an awesome human being.*

*Jolene Lippse*

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**Jolene Lippse** - March 22, 2021 at 07:49 PM

JG

*Jolene - thank you so much for the comment about my Dad. He touched a lot of lives.*

*Jeanine Grusendorf*

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**JL Grusendorf** - April 29, 2021 at 03:01 PM

KT

“ *Please accept my deepest condolences.*



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**Kathy Sommer Thatcher** - March 17, 2021 at 08:36 PM

JG

*Kathy - I read your comment to my Mom (Betty), and she says thank you! The family appreciates the condolences.*

*Jeanine Grusendorf*

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**JL Grusendorf** - April 29, 2021 at 03:02 PM

DV

“ *He was one of a kind I'm glad to have met him. He is missed.*



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**Donald vertuno** - March 17, 2021 at 09:08 AM

JG

*Donny - thank you for the comment and for the care you took of my father. You were a blessing in a difficult time. We look forward to seeing you again.*

*Jeanine Grusendorf*

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**JL Grusendorf** - April 29, 2021 at 03:03 PM

JL

“ *Our deepest heart felt sympathies in your loss*

*Jim and Kathy Cook*

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**James B Cook II** - March 17, 2021 at 07:01 AM

JG

*Thank you for the sympathies. The family appreciates it greatly.*

*Jeanine Grusendorf*

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**JL Grusendorf** - April 29, 2021 at 03:04 PM