



Nov.14 **SHELDON MERCHANT**

Sheldon St. Clair Merchant



1945-2025

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Sheldon St. Clair Merchant. On the morning of March 16, 2025, Shel passed away in his sleep at the Northern Nevada State Veterans Home in Sparks, Nevada. He was 79 years old.

Shel was very active in the community of Susanville. Shel's booming laugh, never-ending sense of humor, and his drive to help others will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Over the last 40 years, he was District Commander of American Legion District #19, Commander of American Legion Post #204, Commander of the Susanville Veterans of Foreign Wars, Lieutenant with Susanville Volunteer Fire Department and Volunteer FireFighter of the Year in 1991, Volunteer FireFighter with Susan River Fire Department and for the Lassen County Office of Emergency Services, Lassen County Grand Jury Foreman, Third Degree Master Mason, and "Elk of the Year" Elk's Lodge #1487.

He was Scoutmaster for Pack 158 and then Boy Scout Troop 159, Job's Daughters Associate Bethel Guardian, Little League Coach, Lassen Youth Soccer Coach, LHS Football Booster, and substitute teacher at Lassen High School. In particular, his work with the American Legion and the VFW became his passion in his later years. He could often be found at the Legion Hall, quick to share a long story and always eager to teach others the "proper way" to make a Martini.

Born in San Diego, CA on November 14, 1945, Shel grew up in the Richmond District of San Francisco and attended Washington High School. He attended Chico State then transferred to the University of San Francisco where he graduated in 1968. He joined the United States Navy and completed the Officer Candidate School. He was honorably discharged in 1972 after serving a tour on the USS De Haven DD727 in the Tonkin Gulf of Vietnam. He returned to Chico State and completed his teaching credential program.

While at Chico State, Shel met the love of his life, Jeanine Denzler. They were married on February 8, 1975. They moved to Susanville in October, 1975, and eventually had three children, James Merchant, Logan Merchant, and Joanna Merchant (Perry).

Shel wore many hats and carried many jobs, but his passion was always in teaching others, showing them to be adaptive, and to stand up for what was right. He taught in Susanville at Lassen High School and Lassen Community College before taking a teaching position with the California Correctional Center (CCC) in 1979. While at CCC he held multiple positions including Teacher, Librarian, Computer Skills Instructor, Public Information Officer, Interim Fire Chief, and GED Instructor. He was deeply proud of his work with the BLM/CCC Wild Horse Program, but even more proud of his work with the GED Course where he helped inmates gain the skills to be successful upon release from CCC. Upon his retirement from CCC, Shel became the Job Steward for Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 1000 to assist California Service Employees in Northern California.


He is survived by his brother, Robert Merchant, his sister Karen Merchant (Lang), his wife Jeanine, sons James and Logan, daughter Joanna, grandsons Jackson and Dylan, and granddaughters Eleanor and Aurora.

Services will be held at Diamond Crest Veterans Cemetery at 10:00 am on Sunday, July 20th. A Masonic Funeral Service will be held at 12:00 (noon) on July 20th at the Susanville Masonic Lodge (84 N. Lassen Street, Susanville) with a reception to follow. All are welcome at either service if you'd like to pay your respects.

https://www.sierradailynews.com/obituaries/sheldon-st-clair-merchant?fbclid=IwY2xjawLz12tleHRuA2FlbQlXMQABHnYnzOgWcojIUtkHzGUb4sFZ-rrs8PvCpB0pls bXArDnXrwANtCm7ptCD7qR_aem_LumudvIwQe6vK7L8qcV1jA

GWHS Class of Spring '63

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/478076082306416/posts/24187983094222382>

Sheldon Wong · Admin  Top contributor

Just got word that Sheldon Merchant passed away on Mar. 16, 2025. We first met on the very first day in Kindergarten at Alamo..

Comments from classmates (on Facebook):

Jeanine Denzler Merchant Thank you Sheldon for posting this for his Washington classmates. We were married 50 years on February 8th of this year. He died 5 weeks later from heart failure.

Sheldon Wong @ **Jeanine** Sheldon and I first met on the very first day of school in Kindergarten at Alamo. We were laughing all day as we couldn't believe we had the same name. The teacher had the hardest time trying to get us to calm down. That 75 years went by fast. My condolences to you and yours, **Jeanine**.

Carol Malcolm I remember Sheldon Merchant from junior high. He was always great at presenting current events news in the social studies class. We had to cut out newspaper articles and talk about our findings to the class. He had no problems with public speaking. I admired that because I was always nervous about having to speak about my news clippings. It sounds like Sheldon had an extremely active adult life. My condolences to his family and friends.

Kay Conway Condolances to Sheldon Merchants' family & friends.

Bob Davis Sheldon and I were in the Tribunes together all through our years at GWHS....Gentle giant and great friend....so sad to hear this news....

Carol Arklin I always had to dance with Sheldon at Alamo because we were the tallest at that time. Other kids caught up in high school.

Paul J. Wigowsky R.I.P. Sheldon

Jacqui Cyrus Thank you for sharing this information with us.