

Aita's Obituary (service info at the end)

March 1st, 1943 – November 10th, 2024

Jean Leon Oçafrain's golden heart stopped beating while surrounded by family on Sunday, November 10, 2024, at the age of 81, at his home in Millbrae, California. He was born March 1, 1943 in Banca, in the Basque region of France, to Domingo and Maria (Bidart) Oçafrain, the 9th of 12 children. In 1964, after being honorably discharged from the French military, he immigrated to the United States. Upon arrival in San Francisco, he began gardening and working at the produce market, where he worked for 18 years, while also owning and operating his own gardening and landscaping business, which he successfully ran for about 60 years.



Soon after arriving in the Bay Area, he joined the San Francisco Zazpiak Bat dance group, where he would eventually meet his future wife, Mayté Dagorret. Jean Leon was a proud founding member of the Basque Cultural Center, where he served on the Board of Directors for 27 years, including 3 years as President. For 13 years, he served as the NABO Pilota Chairman. He also served as a board member of the San Francisco Basque Club for many years, including 2 years as President.

He loved playing mus, playing and watching pilota, singing in the Elgarrekin choir and spending countless hours volunteering in the Basque Community. Jean Leon was also a member of the San Francisco Basque Club, Bay Area Faneurs, La Ligue Henri IV, Odd Fellows Franco American Lodge, La Gauloise, Les Chasseurs, and several Basque Clubs. An avid outdoorsman, he enjoyed hunting and mushroom foraging.

He leaves behind his loving wife of almost 55 years, Mayté, daughter, Isabelle Bushman (Jeff), son, Xavier Oçafrain (Catie), his adored grandchildren, Amanda and Megan Bushman and Mikel Oçafrain. He is also survived by his siblings Ana, Gratien (Mayie), Domingo (Anne Marie), Henri (Mayie), Kattin (Michel), Mañex (Bernadette), brother-in-law, Jean Arrabit, sisters-in-law Anne Marie Chantalard and Bernadette Dagorret, many nieces, nephews, and great (and great-great) nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, siblings Joanes, Jean Pierre, Jean Louis, Mayie and Gaxuxa, brothers-in-law, Ernest Lagrenade, Etienne and Joseph Dagorret, Danny Chantalard and Yves DeNoyer, sister-in-law, Claudie Dagorret, nephew Patrick Lagrenade and niece Marie Pierre Arrabit.

Visitation: Thursday, November 14th from 4:00 – 7:00 pm followed by Rosary at 7:00 pm at Chapel of the Highlands - 194 Millwood Drive. Millbrae, California

Funeral Mass: Friday, November 15th 10:30 am at St. Dunstan Catholic Church

1133 Broadway Avenue, Millbrae, California

In lieu of flowers, Jean Leon has requested donations be made to the US Federation of Pelota (<https://my.cheddarup.com/c/in-memory-of-jean-leon-ocafrain/>)