



Darold C. Sprague

January 9, 2025

Darold Clyde Sprague was born on March 8, 1944, in San Francisco, California, the only child of Clyde Morris Sprague and Violet Whitebrook Sprague. He spent most of his life in central California near California Hot Springs. After graduating from Porterville High School in 1963, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served as a Quartermaster for the USS Clark County (LST 601) and the USS Whitfield County (LST 1169).

Upon his honorable discharge in September 1968, he was awarded a National Defense Service Medal, a Vietnam Campaign Medal, and a Vietnam Service Medal. He returned to California, spending time as a young twenty-something working first in a brake shop in Santa Monica and later as a bartender at the Shanghai Saloon near Belmont Shore area of Naples (Long Beach Marina).

He returned to Pine Flats when he and his father purchased the Rabbit Foot Saloon. Beyond the care of the bar and their short-term rentals (cabins and trailers) nestled in the Sierra National Forest, Darold served as a volunteer firefighter and EMT coordinating the annual BBQ fundraising events. As required, he plied the construction skills he learned in cabin/trailer park maintenance to generate income. Those skills served him well, first for paid employment in the area and later for a short time in Mesa, Arizona.

On a trip to Colorado in 2001, he rekindled a friendship with Angelina

Sanchez, whom he met in Southern California. That friendship blossomed into love, and they married on January 15, 2005. Their love was one made it heaven...Angelina was 55 years old and Darold 60 years old when they married. Their near-retirement lifestyle lent itself well to road trips to visit family and friends in New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and Northern California.

Darold remodeled their home and added a 12'x24' addition to the garage where he had his man-cave, a heated, fully equipped studio where he created exceptionally beautiful stained glass. When nephew Levi Sanchez moved to the area from Pennsylvania in 2013 with his future wife, Jill Arnhold Sanchez, Darold and Angelina's lives were further enriched. It was a nearby familial connection they previously lacked that enhanced their lives tremendously.

That idyllic life took a turn with Darold's diagnosis of pulmonary fibrosis. Darold passed Thursday, January 9, 2025, at Pathways Inpatient Care Center under the care of a team of doctors, nurses, and CNAs who met their organization's mission of compassionate medical and comfort care at the end of his life. Their support for Darold and his family made a difficult time more tolerable.

Darold will be cremated and his remains buried at Santa Fe National Cemetery in the spring of 2025.

Tribute Wall

JP

“ *Angelina, wishing you the gentle comforts of sweet memories of Darold. Jeanne Patton, hiker*

Jeanne P - January 19, 2025 at 01:28 PM

LW

Dear Angelina, I remember how happy you were to meet up again with Darold. Those are very fond memories to treasure. Love, Lynne

Lynne Warner - January 20, 2025 at 09:56 PM

KW

I remember Darold as an upbeat, caring and fun-loving man. He was so loving towards you, Angelina. At your wedding, I remember that his heart was so full and tender that he could hardly manage to speak the vows he had written. Cherish your memories.

Kay Wood - friend

Kay Wood - January 25, 2025 at 06:25 PM

BF

I am so sorry to hear. My deepest condolences and may he rest with no more pain and suffering. Glad to know you and Levi were able to be with him. When I called him a couple of weeks ago I could tell he was tired. I regret not making it out again to see him. I find solace knowing he is free from the pain.

Please feel free to give me a call whenever when you feel up to it. Happy to chat and please let me know how I can support you during this time.

Darold taught me so many lessons and became a best friend I could have never expected. A kind heart, creative artist, and inquisitive mind that helped me find comfort and inspiration through his experiences and life lessons. His gift of teaching me stained glass is something is one of the greatest blessings I have ever received. I will cherish our time and conversations in the shop, and am grateful knowing his work and philosophy will forever in part continue through Levi and I. His love and admiration for you has inspired me to love deeper and never be afraid to show it. And most of all he reminded me to have more fun! He changed my life for the better and I am forever grateful. I can confidently say he's the coolest guy I've ever met.

Blake Frederick - April 23, 2025 at 09:59 AM

JS

Hi Angelina. I was so very saddened and shocked to hear the news about Darold, and am thankful that you shared that with us. I am also so grateful that Tom and I had a chance to visit with him after our neighborhood Christmas party. He was a very gracious person who I know touched many lives, and yours in a very special way. He brought much joy into your life. And what an artist he was too! His ability to create such beautiful pieces out of stained glass amazes me, and brought beauty to others through his craftsmanship. He will be greatly missed. You are in Pat's and my prayers for God's healing, comfort, strength, and very presence in the days ahead, and may Darold's soul rest peacefully in God's hands. Let us know if there is any way we can be of help to you. May the peace of God be with you. 🙏 Jon

Jon Schiltz - April 23, 2025 at 09:59 AM

JB

Oh Angelina, my heart breaks for you! Darold will always be remembered for his gentle spirit. He was such a kind, creative and compassionate man. Great sense of humor to boot! I know you were the love of his life and I hope he got the chance to tell how much he appreciated your love and care for him. If you decide to have a memorial (and a party 😊) please let me know. And I hope you and I can spend some time together in the future, let's plan a trip? I'm holding you both in my heart ❤️.

Joan Bloomer - April 23, 2025 at 10:01 AM