Wolfdieter “Dieter” Poetsch of Gustine passed away peacefully on Saturday, October 1, 2016, in San Jose, California, with his loving family by his side. His courageous six-year fight with cancer concluded at the age of 79.

Dieter was born in Berlin, Germany, and later came to the United States in 1956 with his mother, where they settled in Gilroy, California. He had a strong passion and love for the United States military, and later served the United States Army from 1960 to 1962. In 1988, Dieter retired from a 37-year career as a Project Manager with General Telephone and Electric Corporation and moved to Gustine. There, Dieter was actively involved in the Gustine community and local government. He served on the Gustine Planning Commission from 1990-99. Dieter was also a member of the Gustine Lions Club and enjoyed being a part of the club’s many service projects.

In Dieter’s golden years, he regularly attended St. James Lutheran Church in Newman. He also developed an admiration of vintage vehicles and even restored World War II-era military vehicles. Dieter was an active member of the Military Vehicle Collectors of California and the Westside Auto Club. He spent many days with friends and fellow enthusiasts attending military vehicle shows, helping with restorations and visiting military museums. Dieter received much joy from these activities.

In 1983 Dieter met and married the love of his life, Inga. He was a devoted and loving husband and they were blessed with a wonderful life together. Dieter was also a wonderful father to Barbara Eibach and grandfather to Natasha Eibach as he was extremely involved in their lives supporting them anyway he possibly could.

Dieter was a funny, witty, outspoken, but gentle man who loved to give speeches and call the City of Gustine to complain about potholes. Nonetheless, he was deeply loved by everyone he met. He enjoyed giving hugs and no one could deny the happiness Dieter provided them. Life would not be the same without Dieter in it.

Dieter is survived by his wife, Inga Poetsch of Gustine; four children, Barbara Eibach of San Jose, Peter Smith of San Jose, Michael Poetsch of Lincoln and Robert Poetsch of Lincoln, and five grandchildren.

We will celebrate Dieter’s life on Friday, October 21, 2016, with memorial services at Saint James Church in Newman at 11:30 am, followed by interment at 1 p.m. at the San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery, Santa Nella.