



## Dean Ray Phillips

July 7, 1944 - March 26, 2026

Dean Ray Phillips, a lifelong resident of Central Oregon and a devoted family man, passed away at his residence in Prestige Senior Living in Bend, Oregon, on March 26, 2026. He was 81, having lived with prostate cancer for many years with his usual quiet strength.

Born in Lebanon, Oregon, on July 7, 1944, to Alma McKinney and Arthur Phillips, Dean was raised in Sisters, OR, where he graduated from Sisters High School. A proud member of the 1961 Sisters High School state championship football team, he carried that same competitive spirit and dedication throughout his life. From an early age, he developed a deep appreciation for the Pacific Northwest and spent his entire life exploring the high desert and mountain ranges he called home.

In 1964, Dean married his childhood sweetheart, Linda Wilson. Their 62-year marriage was the foundation of a large, loving family. A man of many talents, Dean found peace outdoors — whether hunting, camping, or exploring the wilderness. When he wasn't in the mountains, he could be found woodworking, tinkering with his latest project, or settled in his favorite chair watching a good John Wayne movie.

Above all else, Dean was a dedicated family man. He cherished every moment spent with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, leaving behind a legacy of love, dedication, and a passion for the outdoors. Dean is survived by his beloved wife, Linda Wilson Phillips; his brother, Ron Phillips; and his three children: Tina Souza (Mike) of Belleview, FL; Marla

Creecraft (Russell) of Bend, OR; and Mark Phillips (Andjela) of Glendale, AZ. He also leaves behind six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren who brought immense joy and pride to his life.

A private family gathering will be held to celebrate Dean's life at a later date. Niswonger-Reynolds Funeral Home of Bend was honored to serve the family

# Tribute Wall

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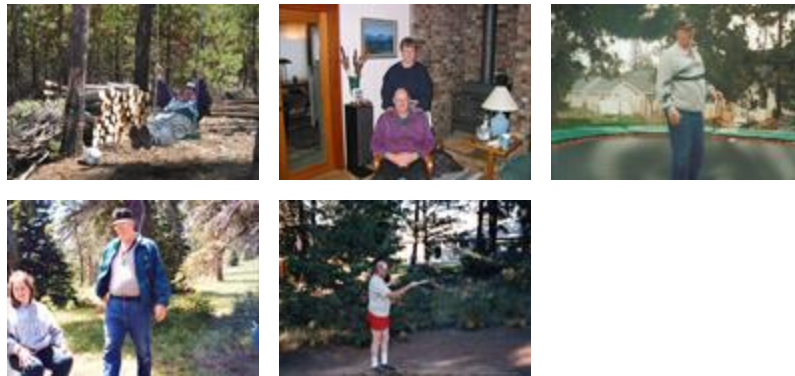
“ *What a tremendous loss. I feel so damned sorry for not getting back to visit more with Dean and Linda. There are so many memories to share about get togethers with Dean and his family, at their home or ours, shooting archery tournaments, or hunting together. The one that comes to mind first is humorous and Dean and I just referred to it as "chili". We had gone on a 3 or 4 day hunt, and Dean had brought a huge can of chili. We ate on that can of chili for days adding cut up hot dogs to it and I don't remember what all else. Any way when we got home, Linda and Bobbie had made dinner for us. You guessed it, dinner was homemade CHILI.*

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**Del Moore** - April 01 at 10:07 PM

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“ *9 files added to the album Dean*



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**Russell Crecraft** - April 01 at 10:43 AM