



Jack Ray Morrow

January 17, 1930 - November 24, 2022

Jack Ray Morrow died peacefully at age 92 on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 2022, in his apartment at Brookdale Bend, a memory care facility in Bend OR. He was born January 17, 1930, in Wilder ID and raised as a cowboy on ranches near Vale, OR and Ellensburg, WA. Shortly after graduating from Ellensburg High School, he met and married his lifetime love Phyllis Joann (Smith) Morrow in 1950. The two made their home on his parents' Singing Hills Ranch near Ellensburg before bravely moving to Alaska in 1957 where Jack gave up his cowboy life to become a career road maintenance specialist, first for the Territory of Alaska's Bureau of Public Roads, then for the State of Alaska's Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. In 1986 Jack retired as a district director for the Department in Valdez, AK. Toward the end of his career Jack was recognized as the Department's preeminent snow avalanche expert, designing and implementing avalanche control programs for the state's highways and airports. His advice was also sought for control operations for the Alaska Railroad as well as private ski resorts and even the Alyeska Pipeline. Phyllis died in 2000 and Jack moved in 2005 to Bend, OR to live with his daughter, later with a grandson, and finally with a son before illness forced a move to Brookdale where he resided for the last months of his life. Jack enjoyed hunting and fishing and absolutely loved horses. In Alaska he found ample opportunity for hunting and fishing and in Bend he renewed his passion for horses, acquiring and caring for several. His faith guided him throughout his life; he accepted Christ as a young boy and both he and Phyllis

actively served in the churches they attended and in the communities they lived. Jack was preceded in death by Phyllis, his parents John and Mildred, and his brothers and spouses: Bill and Bernice and George (Dean) and Marilyn. He is survived by his four children Craig (Penny) of Middleton ID, Chris (Sharon) of Bend OR, Melody (David) Spicer of Ellensburg WA, and Brian (Jennifer) of Roseburg OR, and by nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Final arrangements are pending.

Tribute Wall

WH

“ *Craig and Penny, our condolences! Bill and Joan Higgins*

William Higgins - December 21, 2022 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *Jack and I worked together at the Alaska Dept of Transportation. When Jack accepted a transfer to Valdez the road over Thompson Pass, the only road to Valdez, was frequently closed due to drifting snow. Jack mostly solved that problem by installing huge, up to 20 feet tall, snow fences and snow wings on guardrails. This was not an easy task. If memory serves, Thompson Pass is an area of frequent high winds and averages about 1100 inches of snow each year. After installing these devices, road closures were far less frequent and of much shorter duration.
RIP Jack.*

John Horn - December 18, 2022 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ *Chris - Sorry to hear about your dad's passing. Warm regards.*

Lance Mearig - December 18, 2022 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ *We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Niswonger-Reynolds Funeral Home*

A Memorial Tree was planted for Jack Ray Morrow - December 12, 2022 at 12:00 AM