



Kenneth Lee Evans

March 31, 1931 - November 11, 2023

Kenneth Lee Evans was born March 31, 1931 in Toppenish, Washington to Lee Roy and Valborg Evans. November 11, 2023 Kenny passed away peacefully in Bend Oregon. Kenny spent his childhood growing up on an apple orchard along the Columbia river where he graduated from Mosier High School in 1948. That summer after graduating, Ken's family moved to Bend, he started a career with the United States Forest Service. He attended Oregon State College, earning his degree in forest engineering and spending a short amount of time in the Marines. Shortly after being discharged, he met and married Claudia Lou Haner, and they would go on to have two daughters. Kenny was very proud of his career with the Forest Service and he was able to showcase his talents and work ethic across the country. He spent time in his career in Crescent, Fort Rock, Sisters, and Redmond, Oregon, Temple, Texas, Alamogordo, New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Fairfax, Virginia, and John Day, Oregon. After spending 37 years with the Forest Service, he finally retired.

Dedicated, Kenny lived every meaning of that word. His life was very full, his family was everything, and as long as you got your work done first, there was a lot of fun to be had. Kenny found his fun traveling to rodeos in the southwest with his fifth wheel trailer, scuba diving in tropical countries with his granddaughter, trail rides on horseback with STR, hunting, fishing, good food, good friends, and a glass of scotch.

Ken was a Republican, a member of the BPOE, the Rotary club, the NRA, the

American Legion, Old Smokies, and the Society of American Foresters.

Ken was preceded in death by both of his parents, his sister Gerry, and his wife Claudia.

He is survived by his two daughters, Jennifer Medico and Juliann Evans, both of John Day. His granddaughter, Whitney Moore, and great-granddaughter, Emma Voigt of Redmond; his brother Dale Evans of Eugene, and numerous nieces, nephews, and so many cousins.

The family extends special thanks to Desi, Burrell, Marcia Holm, and Katie Thomas, for their wonderful efforts in caring for Ken.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday January 13, 2024 at 1:00pm at the John Day Elks Lodge.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN 13. 1:00 PM (PT)

Elks Lodge
140 NE Dayton St
John Day, OR 97845-1296
(541) 575-1824

Tribute Wall

MR

“ My first FS assignment as a forester was in 1959 when I came to the Crescent RD. Kenny was Asst. District Ranger and he was a teacher and mentor who prepared me for a career in the FS. His wife, Claudia was a RN as was my wife Pat. They quickly became good friends and shared the duties of the only medical professions any closer than Bend. They "doctored" the little community of Crescent and Gilcrist. They moved, as we in the FS often do, and then Pat and I did as well. We kept in touch for a few years. At one point in my career I was field hydrologist in State and Private in Shreveport, LA where I conducted a survey and evaluation of the watershed of the Sabine River, mostly in Texas. This job was an interagency one with the SCS and Corps of Engineers. The SCS state office was in Temple and imagine my surprise and delight to find Ken and Claudia there! Pat and I visited a few times, catching up and remembering old friends and escapades. Ken was a consummated professional, dedicated to preserving, managing our great forests and all their resources. In my first years in Crescent I sort of modeled myself on Ken and he patiently allowed me to do so. When I saw the announcement of his passing in the Old Smokeys newletter I just had to sit down and recall these memories. He had a fantastic life and will be sorely missed.

Milt Robinson

Milt Robinson - February 03, 2024 at 11:45 AM



Thank you for writing this. In going through my grandfather's employment file I found the letter you wrote for this recollection of the time spent in temple. There was also an envelope with a photo. My grandfathers passing left a pretty big hole since he was a pretty great guy. Thank you again.

Whitney Moore - February 12, 2024 at 03:57 PM

DC

“ I got to know Ken well during my 5 years in Bend on the Deschutes NF, and was always impressed by his calm, friendly demeanor, and positive, constructive attitude.

Dick Chase - February 01, 2024 at 03:27 PM

DB

“ Ken was an amazing man and I am so thankful that I got to spend his last living years by his side caring for him and listening to his many stories about his life and all the things he did in his 92 years
❤️❤️❤️ I will always hold him in my heart and will never forget all the wonderful memories we made and I can treasure forever❤�

Desi Burril - January 13, 2024 at 08:35 AM

TF

“ I met Ken Evans in 1994 when I became Executive Director of Malheur Timber Operators. Ken was finishing a long and distinguished career with the Forest Service, retiring as Supervisor on the Malheur.

MTO Board members advised me that if I had any questions about forest service policies, or what good stewardship looks like, I should seek him out.

Kens' advice turned out to be the basis for any success MTO may have had in holding the decision makers accountable, helping maintain timber supply for local mills and for arguing against decisions that favored non-profits over the economic and social needs of John Day Valley residents.

But Ken was a lot more than a knowledgeable source about forest practices and sustainability.

He was a constant and vocal advocate for doing the right thing for forest health, for being open and honest about how decisions are made and for following the most basic federal law -- The Organic Act -- which still requires an even flow, sustained-yield of goods and services for the benefit of local communities.

Being clear about what he felt were the duties of forest managers, including a healthy skepticism for the inputs of "other publics" made Ken less than popular with environmental activists, but not with local folks.

Ken demonstrated personal courage and wisdom based on knowledge derived from decades of on-the-ground experience. He was approachable, fair-minded and committed to his principals.

To me, that makes Ken Evens a hero.

*Senator Ted Ferrioli
(Retired)*

Ted Ferrioli - January 12, 2024 at 11:04 AM



Ted,

Thank you for your sentiment, I read it aloud today and received it from Dan Bishop. It meant a lot and I know my grandfather had a lot of respect for you. I thought he was a hero too.

Whitney Moore - January 13, 2024 at 09:51 PM

RW

“ I had a lot of admiration for Ken. He kept me on my toes while I was Forest Supervisor on the Malhuer NF. Often times he would challenge some of my decisions, but he was always professional. I think of the many times he would offer advice, whether I wanted it or not!! He was a true gentleman. We shared many stories and I will never forget Ken!! Roger Williams

Roger Williams - January 11, 2024 at 10:38 AM

CB

I was fortunate enough to have met your parents in the desert. They were a lot of fun! Condolences to you and yours. ❤️

Carol Brooks - January 14, 2024 at 01:31 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Kenneth Lee Evans.



January 10, 2024 at 03:44 AM