



Larry J. Romaine

November 18, 1936 - May 20, 2018

Larry slipped peacefully from this world into the arms of the angels on Sunday, May 20th, surrounded by his loving family and friends. His gentle soul, generous heart, incredibly optimistic disposition, and his wry sense of humor will be greatly missed by all those that knew him. Larry was born November 18, 1936 in Baker City Oregon, the youngest of two sons born to Jean Henry and Margaret Romaine. His father was a dentist in the Army so the family traveled before settling down in Hillsboro, OR. He graduated from Hillsboro High and married Lois Reser. After graduation, he enrolled in college at PSU. After a year of college he enlisted in the Army where he was stationed in Germany as a company clerk. The organizational skills learned here were invaluable later in life during his ambitious entrepreneurship. After his service ended, Larry and Lois settled in Beaverton and started a family. During this time, both Larry and Lois worked at Resers Fine Foods. Larry eventually moved on to work for First Interstate Bank, gathering many stories about fighting with the computer punch-cards that ran the banks programs. In 1969, with three kids in tow, Larry and Lois packed up and moved to Bend to start a new adventure. With no land development experience, they purchased property just south of town and got to work. Their business flourished into one of Bends premier mobile home parks of its day, Romaine Village, accompanied by a successful mobile home sales dealership. Along the way, their fourth child was born to round out the family with two boys, Larry Jay, and Jack, and two girls Gina and Molly. Living in Bend, Larry and family fully

embraced the great outdoors - skiing, hunting, and especially fishing. The stresses of running a business took its toll, and Larry and Lois eventually divorced. In 1976, Larry met Judy (Johnson), and the two were married in 1977, bringing along step-sons Greg and Steve. Larry and Judy were able to travel extensively with trips to Rio, Hong Kong, Germany, and Italy, to name a few. Larry's skills as an amateur photographer shone brightly from these trips, with several of the photos he took still adorning walls in their home. Judy also loved the outdoors and sports and introduced him to tennis. They also picked up hiking, with their favorite being Green Lakes Loop trail. They also spent many sunny summer days on the waters of Lake Billy Chinook in their boat, the "yellow hog", both water skiing and trolling for the Kokanee, often in the same day. When Larry sold the mobile home park in the mid 80s, they were secure enough to enable more travel. Enticed by the soft sandy beaches, and a friend's desire to house swap, they started spending summers in Oahu, Hawaii where they would play tennis, swim, and play in and on the ocean. They developed a second group of friends in Hawaii, one of which owned an ocean fishing boat. Larry loved fishing for the big ones (compared to the Oregon trout) out on the waters near Hawaii and was invited to crew during a few local fishing tournaments. He'd come home with harrowing stories of bashing and flying over the ocean waves to get to the good grounds, but he thrived on it. Eventually, they decided summers were better in Bend, and winters were better in Hawaii, so they purchased a second home, the first of several subsequent, in Kailua, Oahu. Those that knew Larry and Judy knew that they moved homes, a LOT of homes - the count during their 40 year marriage was in the double digits, including both Bend, and Kailua Hawaii, so this was one of many. Summers in Bend, would find Larry trolling the waters of one of the many Central Oregon lakes with his fishing buddies Ray or Sonny. Crane Prairie Reservoir was a favorite, known for the elusive lunkers that could sometimes be coaxed onto the lure. Many a day was spent on that particular lake, and many a trout were feasted on back home as a result. He was also a voracious reader, preferring novels of the espionage / mystery

genre. He went through so many books he almost kept Borders Books in business. Larry declined to glamorize his life, claiming he was just a simple family man that loved his family, and raised them into fine adults. He was a loving father, a devoted churchgoer, and a doting grandparent, regularly making the trip to Portland to visit his kids and catch a grandkids game. Family was always the most important thing to him. His kind heart and generosity were displayed in ways big and small in supporting kids and grandkids when they were in need. He was an honorable, dedicated, loving, loyal, honest man, and always did the right and appropriate thing. He was proud of his service to his country, and told stories of it often. He was dedicated to his churches, both in Hawaii and in Bend. He will be missed tremendously by the many whos lives he touched. Larry is survived by his wife of 40 years, Judy, son Larry Jay, daughters Gina (Dean) and Molly, stepsons Greg (Adriana) and Steve (Jennine), and a multitude of grandchildren. He was preceded in death by son Jack (Jessica). We dont know what well do without him, but we can smile when we imagine him casting a lure and trolling for that lunker in the heavenly lakes of the afterlife, ever hopeful that the next cast will land the big one. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the American Heart Association, or to the First United Methodist Church of Bend, 680 NW Bond St, Bend, OR 97701

Funeral Home:

Niswonger-Reynolds Funeral Home

105 NW Irving Ave

Bend, OR

US 97701

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Obituary Wall*



Niswonger Reynolds Funeral Home & Greenwood Cemetery - May 18, 2023 at 02:34 PM

FO

“ *Larry J. Romaine*

Funeral Home Owner - August 07, 2019 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ *Larry and Judy have been such dear long time friends of my parents Hugh and Tootie.*

Debbie Findlay Wightman - July 12, 2018 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ *Larry was a good and true friend since grade school. We had many good times. I truly valued his friendship. He will certainly be missed.*

Mike Wirfs - May 28, 2018 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ *I am sorry to hear of Larry's passing. I have known Larry since Jr. High School days in Hillsboro and all through High School. We graduated together in 1955. Larry shared several reunions with our class and he will be missed.*

Loretta Taylor Paulson - May 27, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Just notified of Larry passing. We spent our high school years at Hill Hi and we had several classes together. A very gentle and friendly guy. Fun to be around.

Jess Rogerson - May 27, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ I am so sorry to hear about Larry's passing. I've known Larry since grade school and always thought of him as a nice guy.

Jerry DuPree - May 27, 2018 at 12:00 AM

YD

“ We are sorry to hear of Larry's passing. He and Lois were good friends of our family from back in the early days of Romaine Village, when my parents, Carol and Jack Wilson were the 5th family to move in. They spent many happy years there and enjoyed the company of the Romaines. Yvonne and Denny Drury Carol Wilson

Yvonne Drury - May 24, 2018 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ I am so sad to read about Larry's passing. Such a gentle man who I had the privilege to serve on several occasions. I so enjoyed sharing fishing stories, and hearing about his travels. I am just so sad right now, this serves as another reminder to hold those you value close, don't let the busyness of life interfere with relationships you value; I valued Larry and will miss him.

Gary Fowles - May 23, 2018 at 12:00 AM