



Raymond Ralph Hartzell

February 24, 1947 - February 11, 2024

In loving memory of Raymond Ralph Hartzell, who lost his battle with Leukemia and went to be with the Lord on Sunday February 11th, 2024. He was prayed over and held by his family until his last breath.

Raymond, commonly referred to by close family and friends as “Ray”, was born February 24th, 1947 in Portland, Oregon to the late Edgar and Margaret (Sturdevant) Hartzell of Vernonia, Oregon. After graduating from Vernonia High School in 1965, Ray worked in the logging industry in Vernonia before he voluntarily enlisted in the United States Air Force –one week before receiving his draft notice.

He served in the United States Air Force from 1965 thru 1969 and is a Vietnam War Veteran. During the Vietnam War, he was stationed at Takhli Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand and at Cam Ranh Bay Air Base, Vietnam, as a Flightline Weapons Specialist, otherwise known as a Bomb Loader. Upon his return from war and honorable discharge, he attended the fire science program at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, Oregon and started his firefighting career with Marion County Fire District #1 in Salem.

In 1973, he relocated to Bend, with his dear friend and former Bend Fire Department Fire Marshall, Neil Hamilton, where he spent the remainder of his fire service with the Bend Fire Department, retiring as a Captain in 1999.

Captain Hartzell had a significant impact within the department and the Central Oregon community. He was involved in departmental training, to include volunteers, co-coordinated the 2nd Annual West Coast Championship

Firemen's Muster in 1979 in Bend, was a major part of the fire apparatus restoration, and instrumental in moving Bend's annual fireworks display to the top of Pilot Butte. For a short time, he was an instructor in fire operations at Central Oregon Community College.

In 2004, Raymond became one of the founding fathers of Oregon Band of Brothers - his greatest passion. He wholeheartedly devoted his time, energy, and resources in support of ALL military veterans, focused on the main mission of providing friendship, camaraderie, and assistance. He literally gave his shirt off his back for veterans. As a quiet and humble servant, the number of veterans impacted by his compassionate assistance is immeasurable.

Raymond was also was a skilled mechanic, inventor, avid reader, and thoroughly enjoyed hunting, woodcutting, and fishing!

Raymond is survived by his wife Susan (McEvoy-Sipp), daughter Lisa Sipp-Scott, husband Preston Scott, and grandsons Derek, Jaret, Aiden, Kaleb, and Nolen; daughter Andrea Sipp and granddaughters Allie and Kara Buys; son Christopher and grandson Maverick Hartzell, Maverick's mother Roblinn Wright, and her son Bryan Wright; sister Claracy Hancock, sister Nancy, husband Vance Baker, sister Kathy Brotherton, and brother Herbert Hartzell and wife Lorelie, and many nieces and nephews who also share loving memories with their Uncle Raymond.

Also surviving are Ray's special "adoptees" who he considered family; Jeff Codemo, Steven Schloe, Thomas Eldred and Bill Johnson.

Preceding him in death was half-brother Glenn (Hartzell) Ferguson and dear friends Neil Hamilton and Phil Bellefeuille.

A celebration of life will be held February 23rd at the Bend VFW where he will receive full honors by the Air Force, Bend Fire Department, and the Band of Brothers. In lieu of flowers, remembrance donations can be made to the Oregon Band of Brothers.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB **23** (PT)

Bend VFW

4th Street

Bend

Bend, OR 97701

Tribute Wall



“ Rest with the angels, Capt. Appreciated you during the early years of my Fire Service Career, along with Ralph, Bob, Leo and others at the South Fire Station 303. Sending hugs to your family and those who loved and respected you. Deep appreciation, Ret. Fire Capt./Paramedic Steve Pengra

Steve Pengra - February 24, 2024 at 03:22 PM



“ Rest In Peace my Friend you were a good friend who always helped me with feeding the hungry, My Brother Veteran Marine Bill Johnson and Ray Always were out Helped people Veterans in need! You are a Awesome man Ray and will be missed by Many, sending my Condolences to the Family and Friends.

Joe Johnson - February 20, 2024 at 04:49 PM



We are the Brotherhood the Great Northwestern of the band of the brothers my name is Bill United States Marine Corps I was Raymond Hartzell's wingman for almost 10 years I am his adopted family for the past 10 years I've been buy Raymond's side and everything that he is done for the band of the brothers every morning and every evening we would have a conversation him passing is left and loneliness in my soul Raymond is in a better place now as a veteran he will not be forgotten my condolences to his wife Susan and their family I say again he was a good man and he will not be forgotten

Bill Johnson United States Marine Corps - February 20, 2024 at 05:24 PM



First of all I want to offer my sincere condolences to Ray's entire family. His long time service to the Bend Band of Brothers, and friendship to me will never be forgotten. Rest in peace my friend.

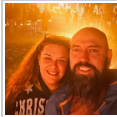
Bill Wammock

Bill Wammock - February 20, 2024 at 06:42 PM

BG

About 8 years ago I came to Band of Brothers, Cynthia and I didn't have any money he handed Cynthia a form for me to fill out because I couldn't my hands didn't work, the next Monday he had a hat for me a name plate and he said "Welcome the Marine table over there". Every Monday he was sitting there. He has done more for the group then anyone will ever know. You will be missed Brother

Bill Gabriel - February 21, 2024 at 11:36 AM



I believe there is a special place in heaven for men like Ray 💙

Ray was a good man and a great leader in our veteran community. Ray you are leaving a big hole in our hearts. RIP my brother and may God fill your families hearts with peace and grace in these hard times 🙏🙏

Ezra-Melissa Brumbach - February 22, 2024 at 09:36 PM