



## Willie Ray Melton, Jr.

May 11, 1951 - February 22, 2022

Oregon State Native - Willie Ray Melton Jr. passed away Tuesday morning February 22, 2022. He passed peacefully in the comfort of his Bend Oregon home.

Willie was born May 11th, 1951 in Eugene, Oregon, the son of Willie Ray Melton Sr. and Shirley Mae (Mitchell) Melton. He was preceded in death by both Mother 2017, Father 1996, and siblings, Joyce 2008, and Ed 2010. After moving around the Pacific Northwest, Willie and his family settled in Corvallis Oregon, in 1957. He attended Corvallis High School, and eventually joined the Army where he served in Thailand during the Vietnam War. Then later re-enlisted in the Navy until he was formally discharged, honorably, in 1977.

He married his 1st wife, Velda Penney in Corvallis and the same year had their daughter, Ivy Ray Melton in Lewiston, Idaho. Willie and Velda divorced in 1983. Willie relocated back to Corvallis, eventually settling in Bend, Oregon. In 1987, he married his 2nd and current wife, Letha (Williams) Melton whom he has spent the last 34 years of his life with.

Willie was a hard worker. In addition to his military service, Willie worked in construction, more specifically, asphalt paving, for several years of his life, until he retired in 2010.

Willie was sentimental in his ways. His favorite past times were enjoying precious moments at the Oregon Coast with his beloved wife Letha and visiting his daughter and grandkids in Washington State. Willie was a natural musician, and lover of the outdoors. He was very creative and artistic. That often showed in his home improvement projects. He is known by many for his playful nature, sense of humor, and quick wit. Willie was a proud father, PaPa to four grandchildren, uncle to six nephews, and friend to many.

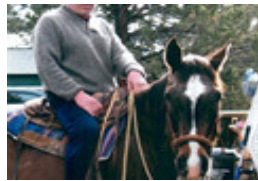
He is survived by one sibling, Linda Rae Larson. Wife; Letha (Williams) Melton. Daughter; Ivy Ray (Melton) Payne. Grandchildren; Lillian Ray Payne, Allison Justine Payne, Jacob Tyler Payne, and Jada Malaret Payne of Silverdale, WA.

Please send any condolences for the family to: Letha Melton PO Box 38  
Sisters Oregon 97759

# Tribute Wall



“ 8 files added to the album *New Album*



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**Niswonger Reynolds Funeral Home & Greenwood Cemetery** - May 18, 2023 at 03:07 PM

BH

“ *Willie Ray Melton, Jr.*

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**Bend Funeral Homes** - February 28, 2022 at 12:00 AM

AJ

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

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**A Memorial Tree was planted for Willie Ray Melton, Jr.** - February 28, 2022 at 12:00 AM