



Donald P. Koehler

October 10, 1935 - September 28, 2021

Born in South Dakota in 1935 to Bernard and Evea Koehler, Don had 7 brothers and 4 sisters. He enjoyed the usual High School activities of football, baseball and attending every dance with a favorite young lady, often double dating with one of his siblings. They were a close family and everyone knew not to show up late for dinner. Mom was a great cook and there would be no leftovers!

After High School, Don joined the Navy in 1953, and spent the next 5 years as a Hospital Corpsman in the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton. He was told "from this day forward you are a Marine, here is your uniform, wear it proudly". He was very proud to be a Marine.

Upon leaving the military Don moved to Washington State to be near two of his brothers and his father and his beloved nieces and nephews. He missed his family.

He joined the Washington State Patrol in 1961 and spent the next 32 years as a patrolman ending his career as a Sergeant in 1993. His first assignment was in Chelan where he gained an understanding of police work and made many lifetime friends. Don felt honored to be a member of WSP. He was also a volunteer fireman and felt a strong kinship with friends at the Fire Dept. and with Chelan County Police Dept. as well. He loved building and working with tools and often helped friends with home repairs, adding a room or garage. When he decided to build his own house he called them all to come and help and every one of them did!

He met the love of his life, Pat, in 1972 while assigned to Wenatchee. They married a year later. Don was a very special guy, he loved to be contrary and could frustrate you and make you laugh in the same moment. He was always generous and yet tightfisted. He drove family and friends crazy and yet he was well known for his great big compassionate heart. He did not like to show it but he could be overwhelmingly kind. He will be missed but never forgotten. Don is survived by his wife, Pat, and daughter Cindy Koehler Ray (Roger Ray), of Junction City OR; granddaughter, Morgaine Koehler Clarke of Springfield OR; 2 grandsons, Niko Oleyar and Benji Oleyar of Poulsbo WA; sister-in-law, Marie Koehler of Monroe; nieces and nephews, Nan, Sis, Janet, Jamie, Kay, Andy, Pete, and Larry Jr.; and his brother, Tom (Sandy) and sister, Ruthann in South Dakota and numerous nieces and nephews across the US. To the family's great sorrow their youngest daughter, Valerie, passed away in September this last year. Cancer took the life of a young mother of 2 sons and left many friends and cousins in deep sorrow. Sometimes a bright star burns out too soon. She graduated from EWU, joined the Peace Corps (Tanzania), graduated from Seattle University and worked for the Navy as an Environmental Scientist. She loved her sons, Niko and Benji, more than life and spent many hours playing and having marshmallow roasts and camping with them. She had many beloved friends and cousins so very dear to her. Many were near at her time of death. The Hospice worker said "When I die, I want to be just like that...surrounded by a sea of women!"

It is said that Joy and Sorrow walk the same sacred path. We take Joy in the privilege of knowing these two extraordinary members of our family and in loving them AND in knowing that they loved us! We are so very sorry for our loss of them in our lives. They will always be well remembered and treasured. We plan a Celebration of these two lives on the 30th of October at Faith Presbyterian Church (200 S Kentucky) in East Wenatchee at 1pm. Because of Covid concerns, guests are asked to wear a mask and to thoughtfully distance as we gather.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Service

OCT 30. 1:00 PM (PT)

Faith Presbyterian Church of East Wenatchee
200 S Kentucky Ave
East Wenatchee, WA 98802

Tribute Wall

SH

“ *May you rest in peace. Even though your gone your spirit will always be here with us. Your heart & soul is a part of me every day. I will meet you on the other side.*



Shelly - October 28, 2021 at 06:06 PM

JC

“ *I know Don through his daughters Cindy and Val, meeting them at the city pool long ago. Val and Cindy became my best friends, While Don and Pat became like parents to me. They shared many acts of kindness with me, but the greatest was when I went through a devastating divorce in 2005, they offered me an apartment where I still reside across the street. I worked for a few years out of town, and I knew I would receive a phone call shortly after I pulled into my driveway. I think I miss that most.*

My dear Val. I have never missed anyone more. I will leave it at that...❤️

Jac Gates - October 20, 2021 at 11:21 PM

MA

“ Happy memories of Don visiting his brother Bob & I in Southern California.
He was fun to be around and a great dancer.! Don came to our place for our first Thanksgiving together. Glory be, we had a 26 LB turkey for the 3 of us..
A lot of leftovers. Now we hold on to the good memories. He was Blessed with a great life!!
Love & blessings
Marlys Koehler Berry

Marlys - October 19, 2021 at 10:24 AM

JM

“ My dear uncle Don I have so many memories of you! From playing basketball with you outside And just plain ol visiting! My memory that I would like to share is going over to Wenatchee for apple blossom when I was in high school and getting pulled over by a state patrolman as I pulled into Wenatchee. I dropped your name and said do you know my uncle don Koehler and he said yes and now your getting a ticket for sure! I told you that story about 4 years ago and you laughed and laughed! I always admired your work and will always back the blue. You were very loved by my dad too. And our whole family will miss you and will always love you , your niece Janet

janet mattson - October 18, 2021 at 08:34 PM

KK

Uncle Don and Val We are glad you are together In This universe. Nothing was more important than family to Val. Uncle Don was so proud of her.

kay koehler - October 19, 2021 at 09:27 PM

DE

I have known Don since 1961. He wired my swimming pool and I roofed his house. Never thought I would end up working for him as a Trooper. Was great to work with and for. He will be missed by his many friends here in the valley. RIP my good friend.

Dennis English - October 21, 2021 at 06:13 PM

KG

I was honored to know and love this family with my whole heart! Val and I were the same age and when it was time to go to college at WVC they invited me to take over Cindy's room, (which I cared for lovingly), while Val and I attended classes together and apart at WVC. Because you know that it is a super long trek out of Olalla Canyon to the college....Val and I were super close, but life takes us on twists and turns. Any chance I had to meet up with her and talk with her it was like we were never apart. When she was in the peace corp we wrote letters back and forth the whole time she was there and I was at the Sea-Tac airport when she jumped off the plane. Don was like a second Dad and made sure we all towed the line, but it was priceless when he would give you that smirk of a smile and a bear hug! Love you both!

Kimberly Gullett - October 25, 2021 at 06:24 PM