



George Gail Richardson

September 23, 1924 - September 10, 2012

George “Gail” Richardson, 87, passed away on Monday, September 10, 2012. He was born on September 23, 1924 to parents G. Vern and Ethel Mae Richardson in Chelan, Washington, the fifth of seven siblings. The family later moved to Wenatchee, where Gail attended school. At age 10, Gail lost his mother, but being enterprising even then, desired to do farm work and attend the Pritcher Canyon School. At 14, he drove cattle and tractors on Badger Mountain. At 17, he worked on the Mud River Dam construction. At 19, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served in the Pacific for three years during WWII. When Gail returned from serving in the war, he married Mary Katherine McGee in 1947. They lived on Stemilt Hill, and had a modest farm which included a cherry orchard where they raised three children.

Gail started his plastering business in 1954. During this time he developed a kinship with Stemilt Growers founder, Tom Mathison, who encouraged Gail to build his first fruit warehouse, as well as invest in an enterprising construction business that would specialize in fruit warehousing construction.

On November 26, 1965, he married Donna Cozzalio in Wenatchee and made a home in Cashmere in 1968. Gail was an extremely successful contractor in the Wenatchee area. He was an innovator who was not afraid to invest and promote his ideas. G. G. Richardson Incorporated was what Gail esteemed as his “greatest achievement;” he was very proud of his business. He enjoyed helping his family and friends, and later, the children of his family and friends, by employing them in his business.

Some of Gail's hobbies were riding horses, taking care of farm animals, fishing, golfing, boating, and watching Husky Football.

Gail was preceded in death by his mother and father, his siblings, and two children. He is survived by his wife, Donna of Cashmere, children, Brad (Maija) Richardson, Ellen Massey, Ben Richardson, Jeff Cozzalio, Rick (Mary) Cozzalio; 10 grandchildren, Rick, Shellana, Meagan, Gabe, Amy, Jake, Jessie, Myra, Nohemi and Rosy.

A graveside service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, September 15, 2012 at Wenatchee City Cemetery. A Celebration of Life gathering will be announced following the graveside service.

Memorial donations may be made to Alzheimer's Associations and Leukemia Lymphoma Society.

The family would like to give a special thanks to Blossom Creek Memory Care and to Bonaventure for their loving and professional care they gave to Gail. Please express your thoughts and memories on the online guest book at jonesjonesbetts.com. Arrangements are by Jones & Jones-Betts Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall

CG

“ I first met Gail in 1953 when George Patnude and I came to Wenatchee from Olympia looking for plastering work. We worked for Gail that year and George returned to Olympia and I moved my family to Wenatchee and then to Quincy. I continued to work for Gail in between jobs in the Quincy, Ephrata area. Due to a misunderstanding between Gail and I, I ended employment on Gails crew and found work out side the Wenatchee area. Despite this split in our relationship we remained friends. Gail was very helpful when we moved to Wenatchee and built our house in Sunnyslope. His loss is shared with many people who knew him. May God Bless your memories of Gails life amoung us.

Charles (Chuck) Graves - September 16, 2012 at 10:55 AM

CP

“ I met Gail when I was working at the Copper Kettle in the '60s. He, Donna, and Donna's children treated me with warmth and respect. Gail made me feel I was important, a really OK person. Their generosity, and trust in me still means so very much to me. Gail was a boyhood friend to my uncle, Richard (Dick) Balholm. I felt a kinship with Gail because his Wenatchee heritage during the Great Depression was similiar to the histories of my Mom and her siblings.

The many tributes given him at the cemetery this morning, further testified of his massive personality as a hard workin', deeply loving and always compasionate man.

I am blessed to have known him, even for that short time so many years ago.

RIP Gail, Love, Chris (Christie) Phelps

Christie E. Phelps - September 15, 2012 at 10:05 PM

LB

“ Donna and the family of G.G. I am sorry for your loss. I met you and G.G. when my sister Mary married his step son Rick. I have enjoyed many dinners at your beautiful home and always enjoyed visiting with G.G. He was a fun man, and he always made me laugh!! It was always a joy to visit with him and his brother. He will be missed.

God Bless!

--Louanne Brown-Tosch

Louanne Brown-Tosch - September 14, 2012 at 06:47 PM

HK

“ Gail was a long time friend of my parents, Jack and Lucille Naeseth. He used to sub-contract for Dad doing the plastering back in the 50s, long before G.G. Richardson, Inc. I remember him from when I was a little girl about 5. I had a big black cat and Gail and my Dad took him into the garage and neutered him. Seems like every time I'd see him after that, I'd say. "Gail do you remember when you and Dad neutered my cat?" He'd always laugh. About 15 or so years ago I called him to ask who he would recommend to fix the foundation on my Mother's house. He didn't recommend somebody, he brought his crew and did it himself! I have lovely memories of Gail and shall never forget him! My condolences to all the family.
Helene A. Krikris

Helene A. Krikris - September 14, 2012 at 03:48 PM

NW

“ Raised me from a pup!

Norm Winters - September 13, 2012 at 12:44 AM

DH

“ Dear Donna,

I am so, so sorry to learn of Uncle Gail's passing. He was a very warm and gentle person to me--full of infectious laughter and keen wit. He always had a chuckle and a smile and a big bear hug when he greeted me. Grandma picked me up once to go visit Uncle Gail on his birthday. I had just finished making a wood carving tray with carved butterflies and won a grand champion ribbon at the Cashmere fair on it. I wanted him to have it because I loved him and was very proud he was my uncle. I love you too, Aunt Donna. The love you had for each other was one of a kind.



*with my deepest love and sympathy,
Debra Horan/Smith*

Debra S. Horan/Smith - September 12, 2012 at 10:59 PM