



James "Jiggs" R. Gentry

August 24, 1921 - April 12, 2014

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Born to Rufus and Margaret (Bledsoe) Gentry, on August 24, 1921, James Robert "Jiggs" Gentry, began his 92-plus-year journey. He was born in Keuterville, Idaho; his teachers at school were nuns, perhaps accounting for his calm, cooperative disposition. In 1942, at age 20, he left the family farm to join the U.S. Navy, attending boot camp in San Diego, and going to sea on the USS Enterprise CV-6. He was a Radarman First Class. While on the ship, he escaped injury when an attack bomb dropped near him but failed to detonate as it hit the catwalk of the aircraft carrier's radar tower. As a result, he carried the nickname "Dud" for many years to follow. He was also on the carrier when it was hit by a kamikaze, destroying the carrier's aircraft elevator. He was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Navy on November 23, 1945, and he continued to remember his years of service with utmost importance. Upon his return home to Idaho on a bus, he met his bride, Lila Jean Goodwin, a Wenatchee resident. They were married June 21, 1946, at Wenatchee, and later had three daughters. Jiggs and Lila were married 60 years until Lila's death on December 20, 2006.

Jiggs spent his entire career in the forest industry, logging, milling lumber, building logging roads, and fighting forest fires. He and Lila built an

appreciation for nature and a love for the outdoors in fishing, camping, hiking, rock hunting, Christmas tree hunting, boating, sledding, snow sculpturing, and gardening. He also taught his girls how to identify wild flowers, poison oak, and ticks! After retirement as a forester with W-I Forest Products in 1986, Jiggs continued his love of lumber by becoming an accomplished woodcrafter making vases, art pieces of natural roots, baseball/mitt holders, doll cradles, and playhouses. He was always busy making wood products or sharing his garden harvests.

Jiggs devoted a good number of years to the Active 20-30 Club of Wenatchee, and later, he and Lila also enjoyed 42 years of square dancing, making many lifelong friends. After retirement, Jiggs was reunited with one of his USS Enterprise crew members, Don Wallace (wife, Jane), of Wenatchee, and the four of them enjoyed frequent visits.

Jiggs was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, and all eleven of his siblings. Survivors include his three daughters: Gloria "Gigi" (Rick) Lutz, Janet (Bob) Rust, and Barbara "Bobbie" (Sam) Profit, grandchildren: Jennifer (Tom) Avenson, Carson (JayeJaye) Lutz, Vhari (Alan) Rust-Clark, Meaghan (Rand) Rust-Matter, Joe (Kate) Profit, Eric (Tara) Profit, and great-grandchildren: Espen Avenson, Jonah, Ezra, Nava, and Chaya Lutz, Kealy Clark, Camden and Lila Matter, Sam, Ben, and Paul Profit, and Brady, Henrik, and Dane Profit.

Jiggs lived his last seven years at Riverwest Retirement Community, and his family thanks the staff for their love, care and consideration. In 2014, Jiggs was honored to accept a Quilt of Valor for his dedication in World War II, made by Debby Phillips of Wenatchee and Kathy Westphal of Kingston, WA. Donations in his name may be made to charities of choice. Memorial will be held on Thursday, April 12, 1:00 pm at the Mausoleum site in the Evergreen Memorial Park, East Wenatchee. Please express your thoughts and memories on the online guest book at jonesjonesbetts.com. Arrangements are by Jones

& Jones-Betts Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall

JO

“ Jiggs will certainly be missed, he was such a kind gentleman. After I first met him, I found out I took care of his wife at Highgate. They were a match made in heaven.. He is with his wife now. To the family, your father was amazing, and you will miss him, but there are so many amazing memories you all have. My prayers are with you all.

Joyce Housden

Joyce - April 18, 2014 at 11:25 AM

FS

“ Bobby, We were so sad to hear about your dad. He was one of the kindness men we knew and a wonderful patient boss. We worked for him a number of years in the logging and road building industry. My dad highly respected him and thought of him as a friend. You girls were so lucky to have had them as your parents. Keep the memories alive for your children. Again; so sorry, Les Shank and Fern Shank-Barnes

Fern Shank=Barnes - April 17, 2014 at 09:35 AM