



John Calvin Repass

December 25, 1943 - January 23, 2011

John Calvin Repass

On January 23, 2011 our family lost the oldest son and our big brother John Repass. After a valiant four year battle with cancer, the good Lord decided he had suffered enough and took him home. Our loss leaves a void in our family that cannot be filled. We take solace in knowing that he was surrounded by family when he left on his next journey.

John was a Christmas baby born in 1943 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Benjamin and Helen Repass. At this time the war was on and our father, a military man, moved his small family often. After the war they settled on a small farm just outside Tulsa, Oklahoma.

In 1957, after the tragic loss of our father and sister in a car accident our mother made the tough decision to move to Cashmere, Washington to be close to her mother.

At the age of 13, John entered the Cashmere schools and graduated in 1961. During high school John developed his life long love affair with cars. We think he was born with motor oil in his veins. During his life he accumulated cars, trucks, vans, and motorcycles. Other than his first two cars, until recently, he kept every car, van, truck and motorcycle he had ever owned.

Throughout his life John was an eclectic collector. He loved his collections and knew where everything was and could find it at a moment's notice in what appeared to be total chaos. John was the most organized unorganized person we've ever known.

In 1964 he joined the army for a three year hitch. He attended basic training at Fort Ord, California then after A.I.T he went to Germany where he was the driver for the base commander. John also was an accomplished marksman winning a match between the U.S. Army and the German army. He got a day off work for that. He was very proud of that day off.

In 1967 he returned home from the service and worked for the Washington State Highway Department as a beginning surveyor. He realized that this would be his career. He started his company and began working towards his Professional Land Surveyor's license. It was a tough challenge and it took him three tries to pass the exam. After receiving his license, he changed the direction of his company towards land surveying and subdivision design and layout. Many of the subdivisions throughout the Wenatchee Valley were designed by John.

John had been involved in the NCW Chapter of Land Surveyor's Assoc. of Washington receiving the Award of Merit in 1983 and serving as Secretary-Treasurer and President at the local level. At the state level John served as State Trustee and Membership Chairman and was a speaker at the Spring Seminar at Portland Oregon.

John was preceded in death by his father (Benjamin), sister (Eva) and brother (Benjamin Louis), and a nephew (Justin Jurzenski).

He is survived by his daughter Sherri (David) and their two children, his

mother Helen Repass, brother Tom Repass, sisters Louanne Brown, Connie Jurzenski (Ed), and Mary Cozzalio (Rick) and nieces Michelle, Hannah, Megan, Jessie, Nicole, and Christina, nephews Matt, Nathan, Jake, and Charlie. John was married 25 years to Barbara Tomlinson and together they raised Barbara's three daughters, Theresa Flynn, Cindy Tomlinson, and Dee Dee Reiman. Who have seven children among them who called John, Papa.

Special thank you to Home Health and Hospice, especially Michele Church for without her guidance, support and kindness our family would not have been able to help John on his journey to his new life and to Patrick Schroeder for his unending support, help and love to our family.

The service will be held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church on Monday, January 31, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at the Chapel, located at 625 South Elliott, Wenatchee, WA. Reception to follow at the church.

Please express your thoughts and memories on the online guest book at jonesjonesbetts.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to Jones & Jones ~ Betts Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall



“ *I am sorry to hear of John's passing and wish to express my deepest sympathies to all the family.* ”

James Repass - February 26, 2011 at 11:18 AM

SN

“ Dear Dad - John: I met you in 1997 when I was 33 yrs and still single, and living in Arizona. My brother-in-law, Corey Keating, came with me to meet you for the first time (ironically he also grew up in Cashmere). I had looked you up in the phone book because my biological mom, Shirley had kept your name for me because she knew I would want to know you. (I had been adopted into a wonderful family and grew up in Spokane, Wa as Sherri Lynn Bovee.) I was thrilled beyond words that you would be willing to meet me. You were so easy to get to know and we just sat looking at each other amazed. You accepted me, you loved me, you let me get to know you. We stayed in touch over the phone and in letters on birthdays and holidays. A year later I got married and you were so happy for me. You were there for me through all the milestones in life: a new job, my firstborn son, David John (2002) your grandson (you sent beautiful flowers), and my daughter Sabrina "Brinly" Lynn (2003) your granddaughter, becoming a stay at home mom and home educator. You always encouraged me. We laughed together on the phone at all our similarities: perfectionism, love of watercolor painting, doodle art, intense personality, deep thinking, wanting the best for people, concern for the world. I met Mary and her wonderful family in April 2009. At that time she gave me the sad news that you had a terminal illness. You didn't tell me probably because you didn't want me to worry. I wanted to be there with you but I had my own family to take care of. Through Mary, Luanne, and Tom I was able to be there with you through them in your last days and hours. They lovingly took time to talk to me on the phone and keep me updated. Now after you have gone on to be with the Lord I am getting to know you even better through all your family and friends. What an amazing person you are and I am so proud and honored to be your daughter. I miss you and love you dearly.



Sherri Nicolella - February 03, 2011 at 03:37 PM

LB

Sherri, we are blessed that you two found each other. Now we have a part of him in you. Bless you and your family. I look forward to meeting you again soon. Love, Aunt Louanne!

Louanne Brown - February 08, 2011 at 06:16 PM

TS

“ I work for Chelan County Building and Planning Dept. I worked with John "the surveyor" on many subdivision and short plat projects through out the last 15 years. We'd have plans sprawled out all over the counter discussing and cussing but in no time at all we were talking cars. Yes, I too have the love of the automobile, particularly the Ford "Mustang. I have a picture of John's beautiful black 67 fastback hanging in my office. My husband & I have two 67 Mustangs - a convertible (my very first car) and a fastback. It was after my husband saw John's black beauty that he hunted one down and is the process of "hot rodding" it out. Our last conversation was last summer here at the office. Yes.....we were taking Mustangs and John was giving me ideas on how to paint black racing stripes on my new yellow GT mustang. Good bye John, I will truly miss you.

Terri Scott - February 02, 2011 at 04:06 PM

NC

“ Uncle John, i'll never forget all the stories you used to tell. I retell them to people a lot, especially how the kid in school ripped your desk out of the ground and threw it out the window. That never gets old. We always had a special bond and basically the same sense of humor. I always 'got it' when you were having your quick witted sharp tongue. I'll never forget you letting me drive your pristine Mustang or just simply seeing you all dressed up every thanksgiving. I'll miss you for as long as I live.

Nathan (Nephew) - February 01, 2011 at 09:08 PM

CL

“ Much has been said of John's caring, sweet, loving nature and I could not agree more. He always had us laughing at our class reunions and will be sorely missed at our next one. It did not matter how many days, months or years went by before seeing John again he was always the friend we were all proud to have. My prayers go out to his family.

Carole Landes - January 31, 2011 at 01:47 PM

CA

“ I was saddened to learn of John's passing and my thoughts and prayers go out to family and friends. I'm sure all could agree that no matter the length of time that we had the privilege of knowing John, the impact on ours hearts will be lifelong. Though I had not seen John for a decade I can still so clearly recall his absolute artistry with pen against page and his stories that were so vividly retold, holding us a captive audience. His gift of stories would take us to the exact place and time of his high school days, antics with army buddies and one especially aggressive ladybug. Many of those stories, years later, have come to mind to bring smiles and laughter. Wow John, what an excellent legacy you have left for all who knew you. --Well done. Rest in Peace Dear John.

Carolyn - January 31, 2011 at 10:32 AM

BR

“ Mary, Rick, Megan, Jake and Jessie, we are very sorry to hear of your loss. We hope you will be all right. You are in our thoughts and prayers. If there is anything you need, let us know. Brad, Maija, Ricky and Shellana.

Brad Richardson - January 31, 2011 at 08:16 AM

DW

“ I was very sorry to hear of John's passing, my condolences go out to each family member. John was always a great guy to all of us that hung out with the Repass family, he always had the coolest cars. I have alot of good memories growing up as a friend to the Repass's. God Bless!!!

Don Van Winkle

Donald Winkle - January 30, 2011 at 08:21 PM

NC

“ John Repass was one of the most caring, sensitive, loving people I ever knew in Cashmere. He came in as a black sheep, endured the typical new kid abuse that only small town schools can give, and rapidly became loved by his classmates in the Class of 61. He was at once the most insightful and yet comical of all men I've known. His memory of the things that make us laugh was unsurpassed. In the 90's, on a visit to Cashmere, my brother staged in impromptu class reunion...and John quickly had everyone running down memory lane laughing as we'd never laughed before.

And yet, I knew a more private, caring side of John. He loved others unconditionally, genuinely, and without restraint. His passing is a blessing for heaven....and a loss for the secular world his classmates must occupy a bit longer.....

Go with God Johm.....

Neal Crossland - January 30, 2011 at 06:12 PM

CG

“ John was a classmate of mine from Cashmere HS Class of 1961. I have wonderful memories of John and his Classy cars in High School. He was always a gentleman. Later, in the 1990's - early 2000's my husband and I ran into him often at his place of work. Which changed a couple of times. But, John and my husband Norm both loved old cars and spent time visiting about that. Mostly, John had a way of lighting up a room with his smile and twinkling eyes. He made you feel special. We will miss him very much.
Carmen (Murdock) and Norm Gamble

Carmen Gamble - January 30, 2011 at 05:44 PM

SV

“ *BEGINNING* with my first exposure to John Repass by admiring the detail of his survey maps; thence came my first meeting with John, of which, I was in need of a PLS recommendation and he asked if I knew how to subdivide a Section 6; thence I explained enthusiastically; thence came my ten year experience working with John and that was indeed the *TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING* of my becoming a Professional; thence I began to learn the finer points of drafting and description writing; thence the times I would present the CAD version to John and he would tell me that the line weight or font was not correct to convey the situation; thence, of course, there was the ever present Repass take on any situation; thence, none the less, I would run my surveys by John to see if my opinions and standards were in accord with his; thence there was no one more eloquent and refined in the Art of Surveying than John Repass; thence I therefore will always remember, respect and admire John Repass as a Professional Land Surveyor and true friend as he now returns to the *POINT OF BEGINNING* of his life.

Scott Vollrath - January 30, 2011 at 02:20 PM



“Helen, Tom, Louanne, Connie and Mary, I am so sorry to read about the death of John. He was my special friend for many years, we had some very good times together. I did talk to John in the Chemo room when I was going through treatment, the smile was always there, even though the drug was horrible. He fought the battle it was extremely hard. Helen, you have endured way too many losses, and I do know what the loss of a child is like, the void is horrible. My thoughts and prayers are with you and the family and May God Bless each and everyone during this very difficult time. John can go raise heck with Robin, Ben, and Bert. They will keep everyone entertained. Joanne Day Wallace

Joanne Wallace - January 30, 2011 at 03:24 AM

RB

“Helen, Mary, LouAnne, Tom & Families...
Our heart goes out to you and your families. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers. Rhonda Bellinger & The staff at Blossom Valley Assisted Living.

Rhonda Bellinger - January 27, 2011 at 05:11 PM