



Melvin "Woody" R. Woods

June 2, 1939 - February 27, 2026

Melvin (Woody) R. Woods passed unexpectedly on Friday, February 27, 2026 in Wenatchee, WA

He was born June 2, 1939 in Portland, TN to Willie and Luella (Whitson) Woods. After graduating from Edgewood High School in Anderson, Indiana he enlisted in the Air Force when he was 18 and was honorably discharged in May 1962.

On October 15, 1960 he married the love of his life, Judi (nee Pfeifer) in Ephrata, WA at Saint Rose of Lima Church. They raised four children and throughout their lives they lived in Indiana, Ephrata, Omak and Soap Lake before moving to Wenatchee in 2018. Mel had an incomparable work ethic and did everything from digging ditches to selling cars to support his family.

He retired from the Port District #9 as Facilities and Operation Administrator in Ephrata on 2001. During his life he held many jobs and occupations but what he loved most was bartering and selling on Ebay and other platforms. His mother in law always said he could sell a refrigerator to an eskimo!

After retirement his good friend Tom Crooks brought him a box of broken clocks and challenged him to fix them. He then became a master of clocks, watches and pocket watches, restoring and repairing thousands of clocks and

watches from around the country. He was an avid reader especially of history and the early West, building muzzleloader guns and enjoyed participating in historical muzzleloader clubs and rendezvous. He was a passionate fan of the Gonzaga University men's basketball team and some of his favorite memories include attending their games. He loved nothing more than being with his family and friends especially his grandchildren and sharing stories and conversation and boy did he have lots of stories to tell!

He is survived by his wife, Judi of Wenatchee with whom he recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary and their children Sean Woods (Devin) of Pasco, Therese McLaud (Mike) of Meadville, PA, Sharon Miranne (Al) of Spokane and Evan Woods (Teri) of Leavenworth. His sisters, Betty Garringer of Muncie, IN and Sandra Cates (Phil) of Charleston, NC and his brother Bill Woods of Muncie, Inc. Brothers in Law, Joe Pfeifer (Tessa) of Roseville, CA, Steven Pfeifer (Carmen) of Yakima, Gerry Pfeifer of Pasco and Nick Curalli of Spokane, WA. Beloved grandchildren Eli Kerner (Justin) of Payette, ID, Ryan Woods (Viola) of Cashmere, Alex Woods (Kaylie) of Index, WA, Patrick Miranne currently stationed in Saudi Arabia, Andrew (Samantha) of Midland, MI and Cameron McLaud of Wenatchee. He is also survived by five great grandchildren, one very special niece Annabelle with whom he shared a love of Big Foot and numerous other nieces, nephews and cousins all of whom he loved dearly.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his mother and father in law and a beloved sister in law Susan Curalli.

A Memorial mass will be held on Friday, March 27, 2026 at 11:00 am at Saint Rose of Lima Church in Ephrata, WA followed by a graveside ceremony.

Please express your thoughts and memories on the online guestbook at jonesjonesbetts.com. Arrangements by Jones & Jones- Betts Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Mass

MAR 27. 11:00 AM.

Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Church
Ephrata, WA

Tribute Wall

“Mel and I were best friends for nearly 60 years. We met at a gun show in Ephrata at the St. Rose of Lima school in the fall of 1969. He and I soon organized a local muzzle loading gun club, Caribou Trail, along with 2 other friends and held regular shoots at the airport. These gathering drew in a lot of other enthusiasts, who were soon friends and strong supporters of the hobby.

He and I continued to shoot, hunt, camp and work together despite the various distances we were apart. I employed by the Department of the Interior and was transferred away for Ephrata, living in Bismarck, ND, Billings, MT, Portland, OR, and settled after retirement in Joseph, OR. We remained close and visited, phoned and got together whenever we could. He came to our place in Billings, MT, several time for deer and antelope hunts with my children and I, camping together along the Mussel Shell River near Harlowton. While visiting Treva and I, in Joseph, OR, several years ago, he expressed an interest in learning clock repair. At that time, I was fully involved in the business, so had all the tools and clock parts to be able to show him the basics and explain the tools needed. He got the process figured out in record time and it wasn't long before he was in the business himself.

Woody had a great sense of humor and I was able to kid him without risking our friendship. One event that stands out was what I called his "attempt to shoot a deer out of a tree". His muzzle loading rifle fired prematurely and he took the top out of a small pine while trying to get a shot off at a very close deer. As a result, I built him a clip-on tall addition to his front sight, the idea was to get the rifle muzzle down and not pointing up into the trees. It made him laugh and he kept it with his stash of treasures. On another occasion, before cell phones, my wife and I called him in Ephrata, from Joseph, about 11 o'clock in the morning. Judi answered and told us that he was out, and she would leave him a message. On a whim, I told her that we would be at their place in about 30 minutes. I called back about 2 hours later and he said, "Where are you? I found Judi's note, took a shower, cleaned up the house and made lunch.

I've been waiting and waiting." He laughed about that for a long time.

He was the Best Man at Treva and my wedding in Wallowa in 2002, and happily wore the Hillbilly Teeth I provided in the receiving line following the wedding. He, along with my youngest son and I, made an impression (with the sad condition of our teeth), with all of Treva's hometown friends. Again, that great sense of humor shined through, despite the formalities of a wedding. He was a great, one of a kind, life-time friend and I miss talking to him every day.

Thomas J Crooks - April 12 at 12:51 PM

TF

“ *The Ehinger Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Melvin "Woody" R. Woods.*



The Ehinger Family - March 26 at 10:59 PM

JW

“ *Janie Worrton purchased the Simply Elegant Spatiphyllum for the family of Melvin "Woody" R. Woods.*



Janie Worrton - March 11 at 06:30 PM



“ *Woody has always been such a welcoming, warm, funny person and I'm so fortunate to have been able to get to know him and his beautiful family. I think every time I went to his ephrata house he would attempt to convince me to apprentice with him and learn his business of fixing clocks. He gave me some really beautiful things, especially a mantle clock which he had named "Michelle."*
My life is certainly better for having known him and he will be missed.

Bree Bishop - March 09 at 07:50 PM



“ *The influence that this man has had on our children and grandchildren is indescribable. Uncle Woody was always the fun uncle who led us all on so many adventures! He Will be greatly missed!*

Vickie Mitchell - March 05 at 11:12 AM



“ *Good morning , we are currently in New Mexico on a month long get away . This is a first for us and family helped plan it . I would like to share that Mel worked with me at the port of Ephrata's while I was a commissioner. He was a great provider of many items to the port working with states surplus program. These items were free to port you just had to go get them , like road grader , Building supplies you name it Mel got it . He also created revenue by selling some of these !! Mel family and ours became great friendship during his life and Business relation ships. Mel and Judy are the type of friends you love for life. We will miss his friendship.. Jim and Marylin*

James Berschauer - March 05 at 09:29 AM

SC

Mel was my older brother whom I loved dearly. I remember when I was very little he would always buy me things with the money he made mowing yards on Saturday I loved him very much and will miss him dearly

sandra cates(sister) - March 06 at 11:14 AM

CO

“ *OLD Woody and I had lotta fun at Highland High in Anderson, and Dated the same girl. He had and old Buick and I had a 52 chevy I think we even had a DRAG drag race a few times RIP in peace old buddy COOKIE*

Cookie - March 05 at 08:24 AM

MB

“ *Mel was a wonderful and fun friend! I first met Mel at the Ephrata airport in Feb 1994, he was good friends with my late hubby, Larry Brown! I Loved to listen to the stories that they shared about life and friends that they shared in common! Mel helped Larry and I a lot! One job that I will never forget was, Mel ran our ditch digger, that he acquired thru the Port because of Mel! Mel also, advised Larry and I on laying tile in our fixer upper home near soap Lake! Mel could fix ANYTHING! He was very knowledgeable about many subjects and was always fun to be with! I loved it when you, Judy and Mel would drive out to visit us near Soap Lake! You both looked very cute in your lil red sports car!*

The last time that I came to visit you both in Wenatchee, was October of 2024! We had a good visit and took a pic of us 3 at your nice Wenatchee home!

Rest in peace, my special friend, Mel! Tell Larry and Jesus Hi, up there in Heaven! And someday, the rest of us will join you! Love you forever, Mel and Judy! 💕💕💕💕

Mary Ann Brown - March 04 at 09:55 PM

AU

“ 5 files added to the album *Siblings, May, 2025*



Audra - March 04 at 09:48 AM