



Michael K. Reese

August 1, 1943 - March 19, 2014

Michael K. Reese

8-1-1943 to 3-19-2014

Mike Reese, a resident of Wenatchee for the past 35 years, passed away peacefully and unexpectedly during his sleep in the early morning hours Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at the age of 70.

He was born in Provo, Utah on August 1, 1943 to Roy and Afton Reese. Mike grew up in Portland, OR. He started work as a young boy on a cattle ranch near Portland tending to cows and working the hay harvest.

Mike attended schools in Portland, graduating from Jefferson High School in 1961. A few months after graduation, in January of 1962, he joined the U.S. Air Force and served 4 years during the Vietnam era. He was stationed out of Larson Air Force Base in Moses Lake as an aircraft maintenance mechanic and was honorably discharged in January 1966. He also served two years in reserve duty. Shortly after his term of service, Mike married his first wife Raven and they had one son, Ralph. The family settled in the Aloha, OR. area where he was a truck driver delivering freight to the surrounding Portland area. He later moved to Ephrata, divorced, and had the opportunity to buy into his former father-in-law's fire protection service business. He then decided to operate his company from Wenatchee where he owned and operated Central

Washington Fire Protection Co. for 30 years. One year prior to retirement, he sold his business to a local company and had been retired for the last 5 years.

During his early years in Wenatchee, Mike was involved with the Apple Blossom Festival float crew and helped build and drove numerous floats in parades for several years. It was during one of the ABF's casino night fund raising events that he met his sweetheart, Jennifer Manley, and they were married on September 11, 1982. Mike and Jennifer were blessed with one daughter, Michelle. They had been married for 31 years.

Mike was a people person who loved to share a witty remark, good joke, and had a very sarcastic sense of humor. He had an extremely strong work ethic as an independent small business owner, and was always available to help out a friend with a project. He enjoyed disco dancing, family outings on his boat, fishing, liked to stay busy with home projects, and was an avid Nascar fan. During his retirement he became a talented woodworker and built numerous hand crafted furniture items for his wife and daughter.

Mike was preceded in death by his father, Roy Reese; his mother, Afton Dess; his brother, Howard Reese; nephew, Danny Brewer, and brother-in-law, Robert Manley. He is survived by his wife, Jennifer Reese of Wenatchee; his daughter, Michelle Reese of Tacoma; mother and father-in-law, Charlotte and Harold Manley of Wenatchee; son and daughter-in-law, Ralph and Kolette Reese of Beaverton; sister, Karla Brewer of Vancouver; sister and brother-in-law, Sharan and Bill Hoffman of Portland, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Donations in Mike's memory can be made to the Wenatchee Valley Humane Society.

A private gathering of friends and family to celebrate Mike's life will be held later this spring. Please express your thoughts and memories on the online guest book at jonesjonesbetts.com. Arrangements are by Jones & Jones-

Betts Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall



“ Jones & Jones - Betts Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Michael K. Reese



Jones & Jones~Betts Funeral Home - March 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ A few years back, when a January wind storm uprooted trees in my backyard, I was unaware that the PVC pipes in my sprinkler system had broken. When the irrigation water was turned on in April, my entire backyard started flooding rapidly. Mike walked me to a place on a nearby street and turned off all the irrigation water in my neighborhood, until I had my system repaired, saving my yard and home from water damage. Mike had such a pleasant smile and gentle spirit. He will be missed in this small neighborhood of ours.

Johnette Hessburg

Johnette Hessburg - April 02, 2014 at 12:33 PM

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“ We have had the pleasure of living next door to Mike and Jennifer for the last twenty plus years. Mike was the handiest, most-skilled guy around. He could build or fix anything and was always willing to help with our projects. He always knew the quickest and best way to get the right result. He had a good sense of humor and was a pleasure to chat with. We'll miss him.

Bart and Mauricia Vandegrift

Bart & Mauricia Vandegrift - March 30, 2014 at 03:08 PM