



Richard T. Bates

May 5, 1957 - March 18, 2026

Richard Thomas Bates, 68, died March 18, 2026 surrounded by family at Confluence Health Hospital in Wenatchee.

Richard was born May 5, 1957 to Bud and Patricia Bates in Texas City, Texas. At a young age, he moved to Anaheim, California. He moved to Wenatchee with his mother and step-father at the age of 21 where he met the love of his life Penelope. The couple were married November 2, 1985 and have been married for 40 years. He retired from Michelsen Packaging in 2019 after 40 years with the company.

Richard was a talented musician who has played in several local bands. He passed his love of music onto his children and grandchildren and built a community of musicians around his jam room. He always had excellent advice on everything musical from songwriting to gear recommendations.

He also enjoyed travelling and camping and was an avid fisherman. He spent many a summer day in his boat on the river, meeting up with family to water-ski and tube. In the winter, he often hit the slopes and worked for a time on ski patrol for various local resorts. Wenatchee was the ideal home for Richard with its proximity to outdoor recreation – the river and the mountains.

Richard was preceded in death by his mother and step-father Dale and Patricia Keiser. He is survived by his wife Penelope Bates and four children Tara Meraz of East Wenatchee, Amber(Damon) Ogle of Wenatchee, Brandon

(Lindsay) Bates of East Wenatchee, and Ryan (Kristin) Bates of East Wenatchee. He has eight grandchildren Addison Ogle, Payton Ogle, Nicolas Meraz, Gemma O'Neal, Noah Meraz, Julia Bates, Lakelynn Bates, and Layne Bates.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, April 16 at 11:00 AM at Jones and Jones - Betts Funeral Home. Arrangements by Jones and Jones Betts, Wenatchee.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR **16**. 11:00 AM (pst)

Jones & Jones ~ Betts Funeral Home
302 9thStreet
Wenatchee, WA 98801
(509) 662-1561
dante@jonesjonesbetts.com

Tribute Wall



“ Bill, Gerri, Liz, and Justin purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Richard T. Bates.



Bill, Gerri, Liz, and Justin - April 15 at 12:17 PM



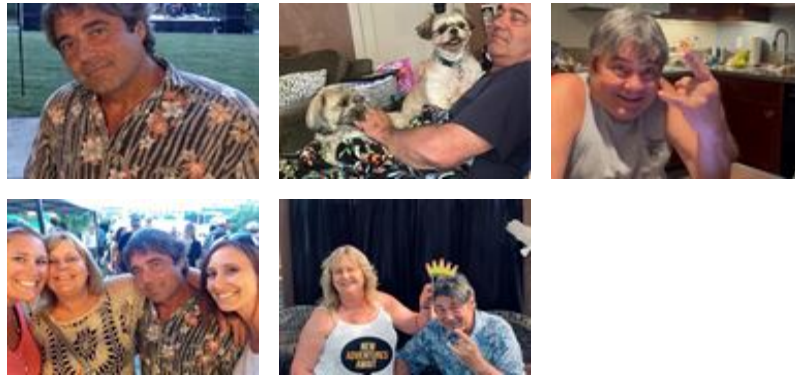
“ 1 file added to the album Life Tributes



Jones & Jones~Betts Funeral Home - April 15 at 11:27 AM



“ 26 files added to the album Life Tributes



Jones & Jones~Betts Funeral Home - April 14 at 07:44 PM



“ 39 files added to the album Life Tributes



Jones & Jones~Betts Funeral Home - April 14 at 12:57 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Richard T. Bates.



April 13 at 05:33 PM