



Tom "Pa" Carter

September 12, 1937 - March 6, 2025

Thomas Calvin Carter, lovingly known as "Pa," passed away on March 6, 2025, in Wenatchee, Washington, at the age of 87.

Born on September 12, 1937, in Monitor, Washington, Tom was the son of Ama and Herman Carter. He grew up in Plain, Washington, alongside his siblings Xenophon, Hix, Eugene, LaWanda, and Willie Rhea. From an early age, he embraced the values of hard work and dedication that would shape his life.

Tom married Billie Fern Morrison on October 6, 1960. Together they had Cindy and Calvin before parting ways. He later married Judith Frances Vaara on March 18, 1966, blending their families with her sons Mitch and Kirk from a previous marriage. Together they had Deanna before divorcing on May 27, 1980.

As a young husband and father, Tom pursued his passion for finance by studying accounting in Seattle while working as a dishwasher to support his family. During this time, he lived in the Highpoint area of Seattle. After his second marriage, he moved across Puget Sound and built a long and respected career as Payroll Supervisor at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton before retiring. His meticulous attention to detail and dedication to his work earned him commendations and the admiration of colleagues and

friends alike.

Following retirement, Tom moved to Wenatchee to care for his mother in her later years. After her passing, he lived with his sister Willie Rhea and eventually became her caregiver after she suffered a massive stroke. His devotion to family was unwavering—he gave selflessly to those he loved without hesitation.

Beyond his professional life and caregiving responsibilities, Tom found joy in simple pleasures. He was an avid wrestling fan who rarely missed watching a match on TV with his daughter Cindy. He also shared a deep friendship with Jim Marts, his longtime best friend who sadly passed away last December. In quieter moments, Tom could often be found immersed in western novels—a pastime he truly enjoyed. He loved visiting the library for new books, taking walks around town and by the Columbia River, and going out for coffee with Jim at his favorite restaurant—the Country Inn in East Wenatchee—where all the waitresses knew him by name. He never needed a menu; he had memorized it from frequent visits.

Tom courageously battled colon cancer ten years ago and remained cancer-free following a long and difficult journey but was later diagnosed with dementia, which ultimately led to his passing.

Tom leaves behind a loving family who will cherish his memory: his children Calvin Carter of Portland, Oregon; Cindy Carter of Wenatchee, Washington; and Deanna Craft of Kent, Washington; step-sons Mitch Spencer of Puyallup, Washington; and Kirk Spencer of Everett, Washington. He is also survived by nine grandchildren—Michael Carter, Stacey Pinili, Stephanie Jackson, Kaitlyn Jackson, Justin Spencer, Sarah Erickson, Brandon Erickson, Alicia Erickson, and Kyle Spencer—as well as numerous great-grandchildren and many other friends and loved ones.

A viewing will be held on March 21, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at Jones & Jones-Betts Funeral Home located at 302 9th St., Wenatchee, Washington. A graveside service will follow at Evergreen Memorial Park & Mausoleum located at 1301 10th St. NE in East Wenatchee, Washington at 12:00 PM.

Tom will be deeply missed by all who knew him. May his memory bring comfort to those who loved him.

Arrangements by Jones & Jones - Betts Funeral Home, Wenatchee, WA.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 21. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

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

Graveside Service

MAR 21. 12:00 PM (PT)

Evergreen Memorial Park
1301 10th St NE
East Wenatchee, WA 98802
(509) 884-4651

Tribute Wall



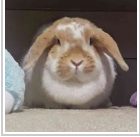
“ Hi. My name is Kirk Spencer. I am a step son of Thomas Carter. When I was very young, along with my brother Mitch, our mother Judy got divorced from our father Gary. She later met and fell in love with Thomas Carter. They got married. He had two children of his own, Cindy and Calvin, They become my sister and brother. Tom and my mom had a child together, Deanna. So, both Tom and my mom Judy had their hands full raising five children. When we kids were young, our parents let us kids call him "Pa" instead of dad. So, from then on he was always called "Pa" by us kids, even as we grew into adulthood. Us kids have many terrific memories of him and, though we all feel blessed that he was our "Pa", we knew his health was getting worse, his death still shook us up to the core. We kids, like everyone else who had the benefit of knowing him, are sad that he is gone, but his spirit will always be alive within us. And Pa, if you are reading this, thank you for being the best possible Pa we've ever had! Sincerely, Kirk Spencer

Kirk Spencer - July 28, 2025 at 05:22 AM



“ I just found out that Great Uncle Tom passed away. I'm the granddaughter of his sister, LaWanda. My mother, Harriett, kept in contact with Uncle Tom and his caregiver. My mother passed away last August so I was unable to get my updates on how he was doing. My condolences on his passing.

Linda - June 08, 2025 at 04:31 PM



“ Since I'm a lot younger than my siblings, I don't really remember much about Grandpa. What I do remember is seeing the snow on the passes on the way to go see him, stopping to get cookies and hot chocolate at the rest stops. He had 3 pets, 2 cats - Smokey and Midnight and a dog - Oscar. I used to be terrified of Midnight since she scratched me when I was pretty young. Grandpa would make us breakfast. I also remember going to a diner he went to a lot. In recent years, it was hard seeing him bedridden and having dementia. I wish I had more memories of him but I don't remember much from my childhood.

Kaitlyn Jackson - March 21, 2025 at 11:22 AM

KF

“ My Uncle Tom was the most caring and selfless person I have or will ever meet. After he retired he moved back to Wenatchee to help care for our Grandma (his Mom). As Grandma's care became more demanding, he and Grandma moved in with my Mom (his sister Willie (yes her real name)). After Grandma passed he stayed with Mom. Mom suffered a massive stroke at 66 years old. As we scrambled to do what was best for her, Uncle Tom stepped up and offered to be her caregiver. A blessing for all involved! As a caregiver to Mom being bedridden or recliner-ridden. A concern was his hearing and how he could tend her well. We worked with Micron Audiology and Dr. John was able to acquire a grant for new and improved hearing aids. I remember visiting him right after he was fitted. I asked if he could tell a difference. He smiled with a gleam in his eyes and said yes, he could hear the refrigerator running and the dog's nails clicking on the floor. Just two of the many sounds he had never heard. He and Mom did well coexisting and stayed together until Mom passed in 2014. Uncle Tom and Mom decided to be laid to rest side by side. A unique and loving gesture for both. They will be together for eternity.

Kathy Files - March 20, 2025 at 09:54 PM



“ I know he lost his hearing when he was very young at a time when there were very few resources for deaf children. He managed to overcome his disability, complete high school and college and get a great job.

I have many great memories, but one i recently remembered was that we were at Lake Cushman and he was trying to teach me to fish. He cast the line out several times and I sat and waited. Out of no where walked a park Ranger who asked to see his fishinglicense. He tried to explain he was just teaching me and not really fishing. The Ranger wasn't having it and wrote the ticket. He laughed after the Ranger left which made me laugh.

I know he was a pretty good carpenter who built a swing set out of 2x4, framed in walls for bedrooms upstairs and did it all with a hand saw. As a pretty good carpenter myself I am amazed how much he did with that saw.

The skills he taught me I have used my entire life, that's what he wanted.

Mitch Spencer - March 16, 2025 at 02:51 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Tom "Pa" Carter.



March 14, 2025 at 11:40 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Tom "Pa" Carter.

March 14, 2025 at 11:40 AM

ST

“ Since we lived far from Pa my favorite memories are driving over with the family, spending time and going on walks with him! Seeing him eat home cooked meals (breakfast was my favorite), Pa being active and taking care of his sister, Willie, before she passed! RIP Pa! You will be missed! ❤️

Stephanie - March 11, 2025 at 11:06 PM

SP

“ Some of my favorite memories with Grandpa were the simple moments that meant so much. I remember waking up early so we could drive over and surprise him—seeing the look on his face was the best! We’d sleep on the floor, but no matter what, we’d wake up to the smell of him cooking potatoes and the coffee pot always going.

I also remember going to diners with him and I would get hot chocolate. To this day, whenever I go out to breakfast and order a hot chocolate, it reminds me of him. Even though having conversations with him could be tricky with his hearing aids, he still found ways to make us laugh.

He was just so caring, always making sure we were taken care of and knew we were loved.

- Stacey Pinili
(Granddaughter)



Stacey Pinili - March 11, 2025 at 10:49 PM