



Edward Reginald Epley

April 7, 1937 - January 26, 2021

Edward Reginald Epley, of Corvallis, died Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2021 of pancreatic cancer. He was 83.

Epley, often wearing a red felt hat and driving his 1961 Volkswagen bus, could be seen peacefully protesting the United States' involvement in war every night in front of the Benton County Courthouse for the last 19 years. He was arrested several times, most notably at the Trojan Nuclear Plant in 1977. He was a beacon of inspiration and of war resistance for people around the world.

An ardent proponent of basic human rights, Epley was a supporter and volunteer at local homeless shelters, the Grace Center for Adult Day Services, a founding member of the Peace and Justice Gofers, the Power of 100 People, Veterans for Peace, and often drove blood and plasma from Corvallis to Portland - where he donated 83 gallons over more than 50 years.

Donations may be made in Epley's name to the Corvallis Oddfellows, of which he was a proud brother.

A small, socially-distanced gathering will be held at the courthouse in Corvallis, at 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 1. For information on how to access a livestream video of this event, please email edepley@hotmail.com.

Epley is survived by his sister, Kathleen Lauer, of Portland, Oregon; his son, Mitchell Epley, of Sacramento, California; his daughter, Leanne Epley-Pressman, of Nelson, New Zealand; and his beloved grandchildren: Robin, Joshua and Hannah.

He truly left the world a better place, for his having been in it.

Cemetery Details

Odd Fellows Cemetery

Previous Events

Graveside Service

FEB 1. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (PT)

Odd Fellows Cemetery

Tribute Wall

EW

“ Dear Leanne and Mitch,
Our condolences for the loss of your dad. He was a gentle soul with a huge heart! Your mom and dad were John’s landlords when he lived across the street on Harrison. That was very close to 50 years ago!
I have seen your dad around town several times over the years and had dinner with him a few times with mutual friends. I hadn’t heard that he was ill and I’m sorry to have missed the opportunity to visit with him before he passed.
I know it meant the world to him to have you two in town and the celebration of his life tonight was a perfect send off.
John took this picture of your dad. Look closely! We figured out he must have been in his early thirties!—1972. Love the pants!
The obituary captured him well. The world definitely was a better place because of his presence!
With sympathy,
John and Eneke Warnke



Eneke Warnke - February 01, 2021 at 11:26 PM

ME

Thank you! Id never seen the photo! But that was Dad in all his style.
😊 thank you for sharing.

Mitch Epley - June 25, 2021 at 01:22 AM

JE

“ I met Ed only briefly—he attended every single Power of 100 People Who Care event over the last couple of years. He showed up to learn about organizations we were donating to and to be a part of our small community. He had such a wonderful spirit and made our community better just by being there.

Jodi Elliott - February 01, 2021 at 01:21 PM

ME

Thank you for your kind words.

Mitch Epley - June 25, 2021 at 01:23 AM

JG

“ After knowing Ed and his vw's for the past 45 years, it is only proper to say RIP to a good man. John Gullede

John Gullede - February 01, 2021 at 12:54 PM

ME

Thank you 🙏

Mitch Epley - June 25, 2021 at 01:23 AM

HE

“ My condolences to Ed's family and close friends. Ed was a warm and caring man and will be missed by many. Rest in peace.

Heather E - February 01, 2021 at 01:26 AM

CP

“ Our condolences to the family. We have great memories of Ed who we met through working with the Peace and Justice Gofers not long after we came to Corvallis. Back in the early 80's their newsletter kept everyone informed about progressive events. We had a lot of fun playing "cooperative volleyball" on the Gofers team with him along with Ed McLain and others. We will miss seeing his smiling face at the Courthouse vigil. What a good man trying to make a better world. Cliff and Chere Pereira

Cliff and Chere Pereira - January 31, 2021 at 11:02 PM

ME

The Peace and Justice Warriors, haven't heard that name in awhile. Dad and Ed McClain were quite the duo. 😊

Mitch Epley - June 25, 2021 at 01:25 AM



“ I met Ed in May of 2016 in Anacortes, Washington. He and I and 50 other people got arrested for protesting the harm caused by the fossil fuel industry. We then ended up in small groups and went to trial over a year later. My trial group included Ed and 2 other men. I enjoyed getting to know Ed, and was inspired by his years of activism.

I love you, Ed. Standing with you to create a healthier world has enriched my life in a deep way.

Chris Ta - January 31, 2021 at 12:35 AM

ME

Thank you. He's be tickled to know he'd affected so many people.

Mitch Epley - June 25, 2021 at 01:28 AM

SB

“ *Condolences to Ed's family. I'm sorry for your loss. Ed loved his family. His love could be seen in the twinkle in his eyes as he shared news of his kids and grandkids. His trips to New Zealand were full of fun and excitement that he loved sharing with friends. Daily coffee time, the Peace & Justice Gofers, putting out news letters, daily peace vigil and more, Ed was a big part of it all. I'll miss you Ed. Your red hat from Tunisia and the white golf cart. Thanks for coming to my going away party. I thought I'd see you again during a visit to Corvallis. Peace & love Ole friend. Say hi to Jim and Ed for me. Hugs*

Susan Burke - January 30, 2021 at 12:56 PM

MO

“ *I first met Ed training to work on the 'Bummer Squad' at Sunflower House in 1977. This 21 yr old hippie heard his wit and wisdom back then and spent some time with those memories while on the courthouse lawn this last Presidents Day. He liked my poster: "When Injustice Becomes Law Resistance Becomes Duty" ... It went into the van for future glory... Always a tireless advocate for so many members of this community and then some...A true activist drawing our attention daily to the irrationality of violent conflicts, decisions and actions. How lucky we are to have known someone like Ed. ~Mary Shannon O'Boyle*

Mary Shannon O'Boyle - January 30, 2021 at 12:42 AM



“ *What a kind and determined man. I first met Ed when he came down from Corvallis with a car load of folks to meet us at Growers Market so we could all car pool to the test site. Big Ed and Little Ed both came each time I went to the test site. Now they have both passed on. I heard about the 5 pm vigil each day in Corvallis for years and feel very lucky to be able to have stood there with Ed and others one time two falls ago when the National War Tax Coordinating Committee had a conference in Corvallis. To no one's surprise, Ed attended the whole conference to learn more about war tax resistance. A man with convictions. He will be missed. Lots of love to him and his family and friends.*

Sue Barnhart

Sue Barnhart - January 30, 2021 at 12:03 AM

CP

“ *Such a sweet, loving, dedicated person....I always looked for him at 5 o'clock out in front of the Courthouse, standing up for righteousness. Will miss your presence, and your wonderful hugs (pre-Covid 🤔). May the force and all our love be with you as you enter a new dimension....Claire*

claire pate - January 29, 2021 at 10:36 PM

 Justin
Roach

“ *Ed (or Dumbo as I called him for some reason) was like an uncle to me since I was about 5 years old. He never ceased to make me laugh or challenge me to think. You'll be missed dearly, Dumbo!*

Justin Roach - January 29, 2021 at 08:06 PM

KB

“ *What is there to say to adequately sum up Ed's impact on Corvallis? His presence and spirit will be dearly missed and absence keenly felt, probably the most starkly at 5-6pm every night. His memory lives on in the lives he touched and causes he tirelessly fought for.*

Kat B. - January 29, 2021 at 01:29 PM

TM

Ed is fondly remembered by neighborhood kids on Johnson Street, now young adults, who he happily took on little treks in his electric cart. His life was full.

Teresa M - January 29, 2021 at 08:36 PM

DS

“ *Rest in Peace Ed
My friend, peace cohort, fellow mariner, and steadfast promoter of human rights and moral justice. Standing at the peace vigil will be a lonely mission without you, my brother.*

Dennis Stillwaggon - January 29, 2021 at 01:23 PM

DW

“ *Ed was a beautiful, lovely person. I will miss him very much.
Denis White*

Denis White - January 29, 2021 at 01:18 PM

JR

Ed was steadfast and present for all who needed a hug, a kind word, or a peace sign. We will miss him at the daily peace vigil. He showed up, brought his van full of peace signs, and was there, even when we couldn't always make it. Human rights, justice, the environment were of concern to him.

Jeanne Raymond - January 29, 2021 at 11:14 PM

GG

“ Ed was my role model and mentor and I will miss his joyful wisdom. I am honored to have known him and shared in his work of making our community and world a better place.

He was one of a kind and his passing marks an end of an era. Fair Winds and Smooth Seas Brother Epley.

Peace.

George Grosch - January 29, 2021 at 12:58 PM

JK

“ Ed was the "older" guy, the hippie, anti-war, anti-nuclear power role model for me and numerous other friends back in the '70s. We met during the "Trojan Decommissioning Alliance" meetings in Corvallis, and he was one of so many demonstrating at the plant, getting arrested for what he believed. I loved that Ed walked his talk. He will be missed. Ed, I'm glad you were able to vote in the last election! Thank you for being a light in this often-dark world. Your memory will always be a blessing to so many.

Judi Kloper - January 29, 2021 at 12:28 PM

PG

“ I knew Ed for a few few decades and spent a lovely week with him in jail in Nevada for the heinous crime of crossing a line in the sand at the nuclear test site. They gave up arresting folks as they got tired of us Oregonians crowding their little jail. It was always great to see him out protesting at the courthouse and I would yell at him to get a job, you hippy. We both smiled. Sure glad he made it to see a new President. Will miss him.

Peter Greenberg

Peter Greenberg - January 29, 2021 at 12:12 PM



William
Gilbert

“ *I will miss Ed. I lived a block south of him. He'd always yell out a greeting as he drove by.*

I knew him since the first Earth Day in 1970. He was also at the first sit-in to decommission the Trojan Nuclear Power Plant on the Columbia River.

He always led by example. Thank you Ed.

William Gilbert - January 29, 2021 at 10:59 AM