



Raymond Ervin Bennett

October 27, 1930 - October 24, 2024

Raymond (Ray) Earvin Bennett, a longtime resident of Philomath and Corvallis, passed away peacefully on Thursday, October 24, 2024 at the age of 93. Ray was born to Bob and Francis Bennett on October 27, 1930 in Falls City, Oregon, the third youngest of 13 children. When Ray was less than six months old, the Bennett family - Bob, Francis, Carl, Jiggs, Marvin, Dick, Ted, Roy, Lavora, Hazel, Marvelle, Ray, Ron, Bobbie, and Argyl - relocated to Philomath, OR and became mainstays of the local community.

Ray married Louann Nelson, formerly of Corvallis, in 1950, and they remained married for 68 years until Louann's passing in 2018.

In 1948, at the age of 18, "Big Ray" began driving a log truck for a living. With the help of Louann, he owned and operated Ray Bennett Trucking in Philomath. As he loved to say, he drove a log truck for 48 years, 2 months, and 13 days - well over three million miles - until his retirement in 1996. Ray was a legend in the local logging community, having driven up and down seemingly every logging road in the Coast Range and the Cascades across the decades.

Ray loved to spend time traveling around Oregon and beyond, taking in the Pacific Northwest scenery, with Louann at his side.

Ray was preceded in death by his parents, 11 of his 12 siblings, and his wife Louann and two infant children, Patty Ann and Gary Allen. He is survived by his daughter Sandy Watterson and son-in-law Kent Watterson, of Apollo Beach, FL; grandson Greg Watterson of Stafford, VA (and wife Tracey); grandson Eric Watterson of Geneva, Switzerland (and wife Deanna); five great-grandchildren (Mackenzie, 23, Ashton, 20, Landon, 17, Isabel, 8, and Oliver, 8); sister, Bobbie Barnhouse of Philomath; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Tribute Wall

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“ Ray was such a great friend to me, He would always have a great story to tell to make me laugh. I have known Ray for 55 years, starting at Ridenour Shell when he would bring his beautiful Log Truck in to fuel up or get tires changed. He always had the fastest truck on the road and was so proud of that. He let me ride with him a few times and they are such great memories.

I will miss him!

Gary P White

GARY WHITE - November 12, 2024 at 09:47 AM