



Walter Joseph Atkinson

July 2, 1936 - September 30, 2022

Walter J. Atkinson, 86, beloved husband and father, passed away at home surrounded by his family on September 30, 2022. Due to the faithful prayers of many, he put his hope and trust in Jesus, excitedly looking forward to his reunion with his parents. He went peacefully to his new Heavenly Father.

Walt was born in Portland on July 2, 1936 to Earl H. and Iris Mae Atkinson. He was raised in Alsea, Oregon. When he was only 4 years old, his mother died, leaving his father to raise three young children while running the Alsea Feed Store, creamery and locker plant. At one point, his dad tied Walt to a post so he wouldn't wander off onto the highway. A short time later, a wonderful woman answered a newspaper ad and came to care for the children. About 5 years later they were married and Peg became their "mother" whom they all loved dearly. Walt was proud of his second mom, who operated The Farmers Kitchen and was known as 'Peg the Pie Lady'. As a young boy, Walt participated in FFA, raising a cow, "Lady Lola the Third," and taking her to the State Fair in Salem.

He graduated from Alsea High School in 1954, then spent two years in the Army, stationed in Butzbach, Germany. He married Joyce Hendrix on September 21, 1957 in Alsea. Shortly after, they moved to Corvallis where Walt worked at Wilson Motors. In 1965, the family moved to Springfield where he would operate a service station first in Springfield and then Eugene. In

1970 they moved back to Corvallis where he eventually operated the Kings Circle Shell service station until his retirement in 1995.

During his retirement, he and Joyce spent several winters as “snow birds” in Yuma, Arizona, where Walt played lots of golf. Walt was an avid golfer, hitting his first hole in one on November 15, 1989, as well as a life-long Beaver fan, holding season tickets in Baseball and Men’s and Women’s basketball for many years. He was a people person who never knew a stranger.

Walt was preceded in death by his sister, Joyce Pierpoint, and his parents. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Joyce Atkinson; his two daughters Coleen Montgomery (Jim) and Cristy Richards (Steve); four grandchildren: Jeremy Montgomery, Stephanie Montgomery, Marissa Brotherton (Joe), and Megan Richards; and one great-grandson, A.J. Brotherton. He is also survived by his brother, Keith Atkinson and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank Samaritan Evergreen Hospice for the wonderful, loving care they gave him.

A funeral service will be held at McHenry Funeral Home on Tuesday, October 4, followed by a graveside service at the Alsea Cemetery. There will be a catered meal held at the Alsea Grange Hall afterwards. Donations may be given to the Alsea Wolverine Booster Club (18062 Alsea Highway Alsea, OR 97324) or Samaritan Evergreen Hospice.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT 4. 10:00 AM (PT)

McHenry Funeral Home
206 NW 5th St.
Corvallis, OR 97330
(541) 757-8141

Graveside Service

OCT 4. 11:30 AM (PT)

Alea Cemetery
18697 Alea Highway
Alea, OR 97324

Tribute Wall

DH

“ When our youngest daughter was about five years old, she called him *The Reacher Man* because he was tall enough to reach all the way across our windshield. Years later, when we were going to be out of town and leave our teenagers on their own, I told Walt about it so that they could call him if they had car trouble. Lo and behold, on the first day one put the car in the ditch. She called Walt. He was one of our most trusted businessmen.

dianne walta hart - October 03, 2022 at 06:50 PM

RH

“ Walt was my brother in law and was a great guy. One of the funniest guys to be around. I will never forget a cow elk trip I took with my Dad and Walt to Coos Bay. Always was the jokester. We'll Dad got his own room and Walt and I shared a room at a local motel. I didn't get much sleep that night Walt snored so loud. Lol I still tell that story to all my friends when they say I snor. I will miss you Walt. Until I see you again in heaven.
Rex A. Hendrix

Rex A. Hendrix - October 02, 2022 at 12:14 AM

DD

When I was attending LBCC I worked for Walt at the Kings-Circle Shell station in the mid 70s. A valuable lesson he taught me was to always check my work. I left a new set of radial tires out all night by the car wash. He said he was proud of me for selling the set of tires the next day. I was confused because I didn't sell them. He let me stew over that for awhile. He then called me to his office and gave me a note that the Corvallis police department had picked them up before they got stolen. Thank you Corvallis police for saving my bacon and my whole month paycheck.

Don Dean - October 04, 2022 at 10:36 AM

NF

My grandparents have been gone now for about 8 years and I was very close to them. I cherished every moment with them while they were here on earth. Fast forward a few years and I meet my boyfriend Jeremy Montgomery, Walter's grandson. I was so amazed that Jeremy had two sets of living grandparents. And when I met them all, I instantly fell in love with them. I have enjoyed getting to know Walter over the last two years. I loved every time we would stop by and see him. I loved hearing all his stories, taking him and grandma Joyce out to dinner, I loved his laugh and his hugs. I will truly miss him so much but I am thankful to have had the chance to know him the last couple of years. More than that, I am thankful to know he is in Heaven with Jesus, his family, and my grandparents. I look forward to seeing him again someday, and I am thankful that Jeremy has a little bit of grandpa Walt in him. I am so thankful to have grandparents again, and will cherish them as much as I can while they are still here. ❤️

Naomi Frost - October 04, 2022 at 07:02 PM

DI

I worked for Walt at Kings Circle Shell for at least 5 years. He was a respected and trusted businessman. I always had so much respect for his honest and humble demeanor. He was a true professional. RIP sir -.you will be missed by many. David Irvin

David Irvin - March 07, 2024 at 10:05 PM