



James Leroy Wilcox

January 25, 1924 - September 10, 2019

James "Lee" Wilcox, January 24, 1924 - September 10, 2019. Lee was born in Alger, Montana to Roy and Mary Wilcox. He was the youngest of three sons. In 1942, at the age of 18, he joined the Boiler Makers and Iron Ship Builders Union and worked in the Seattle shipyards for one year. He spent the next few years at various mechanic and laborer jobs, some with his brother John in Montana. In 1950, he joined the Operating Engineers Union and worked as a heavy-duty equipment mechanic until his retirement in 1986. He married Beverly Gilliam on June 28, 1952, in Four Lakes, Washington where they raised five children - Gayle, Jim, Laurie, David, and Paul (1960-2012). After retirement, he and Bev traveled the US, to Mexico, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand and full-time in their RV for 10 years. They returned to Spokane in 2006 where they lived until Bev's death in 2015. He and Bev loved traveling in their RV across the US and Canada, eventually spending 10 years in Arizona where they enjoyed their rock collecting hobby. He especially loved digging for fire opals and was skilled at cutting and polishing them and creating beautiful jewelry, many pieces of which are treasured by family and friends. He taught his children and grandchildren to love the outdoors, taking them traveling, camping and fly fishing. We cherish memories of him fishing the Chewack river, hiking the 5 miles to the beaver dam, eating Snickers and standing in chest-deep water, fishing there all day until he caught his limit or two! The grandchildren remember special trips with Grandpa and Grandma in the RV that always included many stops for ice cream. He was a man who believed in and loved his God. He was active in every church he attended, most recently Four Lakes Community Church and Spokane Baptist Church. He read his Bible every day and prayed for his family and other needs. He is remembered by his children and their spouses Gayle and George Brown, Jim and Kim Wilcox, Laurie and Greg Heard, and Dave and Corinne Wilcox; his grandchildren Amy, Leah, Eli, Nathaniel, Benjamin, Tyrus, Rose, Zach, and Taylor; his great-grandchildren Camille, Josephine, Madilyn, Elijah, Ezra, Kepler, Caleb, Jonathan, and Joel as well as Fred Swan and his family, many cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends. His family is so grateful to Park Hills AFH for their care of dad in his final days. They loved him as we do. Memorials in Lee's name can be made to Four Lakes Community Church, Spokane Baptist Church or Union Gospel Mission. A celebration memorial will be held Thursday, September 26 at 1 PM at Cheney Funeral Chapel.

Events

SEP **Memorial Service** 01:00AM
26

Cheney Funeral Chapel
1632 W 1st St., Cheney, WA, US, 99004

Comments



“ Curt and I adopted James(Lee) & Bev when we first started at Spokane Baptist and they adopted us. We love them both dearly! We are saddened that Lee is now no longer with us but happy he has now been with Christ and reunited with Bev! We are looking forward to the day we will all be reunited. Much Love, Curt & Teresa Peterson



Teresa Peterson - September 17 at 06:03 PM



“ Should say is now with Christ and has been reunited with Bev.

Teresa Peterson - September 17 at 06:06 PM



“ Thank you for those remembrances. Mom and Dad loved you both and we appreciated how faithful you were at checking on them, showing your love. Thank you!

Laurie - September 24 at 05:43 PM