



Donald Wayne Smith

September 5, 1929 - September 9, 2016

Sunrise: September 5, 1929 Sunset: September 9, 2016

We lost our beloved Papa Don – a cherished husband, loving father, brother, and dear friend on September 9, 2016. Donald passed away with close family maintaining a hopeful vigil at his side. None of us were ready to say our farewells – We love you papa... We love you dad... Our comfort to him in his pain - “Dad, Jesus will come for you when it’s time” - then He did.

Donald was born September 5, 1929 to Jessie May and William Grover Smith of Joliet, Illinois. He grew up youngest of several brothers and sisters. Don considered his step father, Henry Fippinger, his true dad. Joining the Army Air Force in January 1948, his military service brought him to Spokane and Fairchild Airforce Base. While stationed there he met the love of his life, Ruth, their first date was at the then popular Fish Lake Resort near Cheney. Their courtship lasted three months, then married August 9, 1952 in Superior, Montana. They began marriage with five dollars between them. After honorable discharge from the U.S. Air Force, Don worked as a logger, operating engineer, and pipeliner throughout the west; Smitty was a long time member of Operating Engineers Local 370. A foreman and superintendent Smitty was loved and respected by all who worked with him. Donald remained a true mentor and encourager throughout his life to countless young men and women. He would finish his working years as a rancher after he and Ruth purchased “Smithville.” The “Hanging S Ranch” has been a treasured family heritage for over fifty years. Donald had a great love for the land, a skilled

woodsman he loved fishing, hunting, and flying. Papa Don often said “God is no flatlander” a reference to his tremendous love for the mountains of northeastern Washington, he and Ruthie maintained a mountain cabin for family and friends with many “good” times.

Don and Ruth’s extraordinary life together spanned sixty-four years, and was built on four guiding principles – Love & Forgiveness... Work hard - play hard... Ultimately it is love for all of us, his family and friends, that will be Donald’s eternal legacy. For Papa Don his family was the most important part of his life. Smitty was “always up to something” bringing tremendous laughter to every situation. Anyone who “encountered” Don Smith could never forget him - there wasn’t anything he wouldn’t do for those who touched his heart. Donald leaves behind his loving wife Ruth, three devoted children Mitchell Smith (Karen), Donald “Rob” Smith, and Cherie Moss (Craig). Brothers and sisters Boone & Ann Cameron of Deer Park, Washington. Tom & Mary Rinehart of Blue Ridge Georgia, eight grandchildren, eleven great grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews, and a dearly loved extended family.

A Memorial Service will be held at Cheney Funeral Chapel, 1632 W. 1st Street, Cheney, WA. September 16th at 1:00 PM. Reception to follow. In lieu of flowers the family respectfully requests memorial contributions be made to the Matthew Manville Scholarship Fund: <http://www.ewu.edu/manvillescholarship/>

Tribute Wall

PM

“ *I have many great memories cutting firewood and hunting with Don and my Uncle Leonard. To Ruthie and family you are in my thoughts, Don will be missed by many for sure. I will go to the top of Jasper Mountain which is one of the last places I remember seeing Don and Leonard together and raise a toast in his honor.*

Paul Merkel - September 15, 2016 at 01:04 PM