



## Paul Kent Helmer

September 13, 1935 - July 27, 2025

With heavy hearts, the family of Paul Kent Helmer announces his passing on July 27, 2025, at the age of 89.

Kent was preceded in death by his beloved wife and lifelong partner, Donna Helmer, and his cherished sister, Sally. He is survived by his children and spouses - Patrick, Kelly and wife, Christi, Kipp and wife, Karen, and Kristin and husband, Eddie Sacapano - and their respective families.

Kent grew up in the small town of Rosalia, Washington, and went on to attend Washington State University, where he earned a degree in Business Administration. It was during his college years that he met and married the love of his life, Donna. After graduation, Kent joined his father in running the family hardware store and eventually took over the business, later expanding by opening a second location in Post Falls, Idaho.

In 1978, he and Donna moved their family to Post Falls, where Kent became active in public service. He served as a city councilman and then as mayor. After completing three terms as mayor, he went on to serve as Kootenai County Commissioner. After his time in politics, Kent stepped away from public life and sold the hardware store, and accepted the role as the administrator of the Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board.

Kent was deeply loved and widely respected. His warmth, generosity, and quiet strength touched the lives of many - whether through a friendly wave on the street, a story shared at the hardware store, or a steady hand offered in public service. He leaves behind a legacy of love, faith, and commitment to family and community that will continue to inspire all who knew him.