



Wilmer Robert "Bob" Spanjer, Jr.

January 29, 1935 - December 4, 2011

Wilmer Robert "Bob" Spanjer Jr. Longtime resident of Cheney and our beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather peacefully passed away on Dec. 4, 2011, at his home near Cheney, Wash., after a courageous fight with cancer. He was 76.

Bob was born Jan. 29, 1935, in Ellensburg, Wash., to Wilmer and Jane Spanjer. He graduated from Cheney High School in 1953. After high school, Bob served in the U.S. Naval Reserve. He met Marlene Helm in 1953, and they were married on July 31, 1955, in Cheney. They have been inseparable ever since.

Bob graduated from Eastern Washington State College in Cheney with a Bachelor of Arts in business. For much of the 1960s and '70s, he was a partner in the John Deere dealership, Sprague Equipment Co. in Sprague, Wash., and Wheatland Equipment Co., in Ritzville, Wash. Later on, he was the credit manager of Bower Machinery Co. in Spokane. Throughout those years, he made lasting friendships with farmers and ranchers around the Palouse region.

Bob is survived by Marlene, his wife of 56 years; their children Raymond (Pat) of Cheney; Ronald (Shirley) of Blaine, Wash.; Gregory (Diane) of Bothell, Wash.; Laura Sell (Kevin) and Lynda Tschabold (Max) of Spokane; 14

grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He is also survived by one brother, Earle Simmons (Rena), and two sisters, Jackie Simmons and Frances Heng (Don).

Bob and Marlene enjoyed traveling throughout the U.S. and Canada, living the rural life, and making real estate improvements. Through experience, Bob became skilled in home repair and improvement, and mechanical repairs, and his family members always knew they could count on him to share those skills when needed. Bob and Marlene recently acquired a vacation home in Thompson Falls, Mont., where they made many joyful memories, boating on the Clark Fork River or watching it peacefully flow by. Bob loved life, family, and friends, and those who loved him will miss his big heart, laughter, positive outlook, and bright smile.

Special thanks to the staff at Rockwood Oncology, Beth with Horizon Hospice, and all his friends in the Cheney/Sprague area for their prayers. Memorial contributions may be made to St. John Lutheran Church in Sprague, Wa. or the Bladder Cancer Association, 399 1/2 Main St., Suite 2B, Dalton, MA 01226-1612.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 10, at Cheney Funeral Chapel followed by burial at Spokane Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

Tribute Wall

BR

“ We got yhe word on Bob too late to make funeral. We are praying for you Marlene and Family* Always hold you both in our hearts

Ben & Toby Rash - December 12, 2011 at 11:01 PM

PO

“ Dear Marlene & Family: My sincesre sympathy and prayers for your loss. I really enjoyed knowing you in Sprague, and pray God's blessing and comfort in your loss.

Pr. Wayne Olsen - December 09, 2011 at 03:42 PM

JR

“ Marlene & Family, so sorry about your loss. Always considered Bob a great friend as well as my mentor.

John Rash - December 09, 2011 at 02:32 PM

LM

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.
The family of Lawrence and Lizzy Webley.
Velma Webley Provost (Wilson Creek) and childen Rick Mende(Marlin) and Linda Mende (Cheney)
Larry Webley (Wilson Creek) and children Dawnelle Patterson (Seattle) and Michelle Pries (Seattle)

Linda Mende - December 08, 2011 at 12:51 AM

JW

“ *Marlene & Family -our heartfelt wishes come out to you in the loss of Bob. He holds a special place in our "John Deere Days" Memories with many mutual farming friends. You are in our thoughts & prayers.*

Joy & Craig Wilken - December 07, 2011 at 06:20 PM

JM

“ *Marlene it was a shock to see and hear about Bob. It was always good to get to visit with you and other old class mates at the class reunions. My heart felt condolences*

Jud Melton - December 07, 2011 at 12:55 PM

TS

“ *Wilmer Robert "Bob" Spanjer, Jr.*

Tim Smith - December 06, 2011 at 07:14 PM

RM

“ *Marlene and family, We are so sorry for your loss. Bob was a great guy - always fun loving. We have great memories of all of you in those Sprague Days of the 1960's and 1970's!! Peace to all of you. God's blessings.*

Ron and Tammy Miller - December 06, 2011 at 05:48 PM

JC

“ *Our love to you all.*

J & Julie Conklin - December 06, 2011 at 01:21 AM