



Arnold George Emter

September 2, 1930 - July 7, 2016

ARNOLD "ARNIE" G. EMTER September 2, 1930 ~ July 7, 2016 Arnie Emter, 85, of Vancouver, WA, passed away July 7, 2016, after a brief battle with cancer. He is survived by his loving wife of 28 years, Rosalie Emter, his children, Maria Emter Lattanzi, Scott Emter, Debbie Emter and Tina Emter Shotwell, all of Vancouver; his siblings, Vern Emter of LaCenter and Delores Cahill of Pendleton, OR; his stepsons, David, Dennis, Duane and Don Choquette; and stepdaughter, Doreen Wilsdon; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Arnie graduated from Vancouver High School in 1949. He served in the National Guard from 1950-1954 and was stationed in Nome, Alaska, during the Korean War. Following his military service, he attended Clark College before joining the Vancouver Fire Department in 1956. To this day, Arnie's work to unionize the Vancouver firefighters into the AFL-CIO is considered legendary. His advocacy included persuading Vancouver's then-mayor to approve purchasing the very first uniforms for the city's entire firefighting team. That action was an important first step to increase the professionalism and respect deserved for the crucial work our firefighters perform in our community. Arnie proudly served the Vancouver Fire Department for 19 years before retiring for medical reasons. Following his public service, he then worked for Evergreen Distributing for 20 years before retiring in 1994. Arnie enjoyed reading about military history, gardening, cooking, and watching his grandchildren play sports. Prior to his ill health, he stayed active in the Retired Firefighters Association's monthly breakfast

meetings in Vancouver. In his younger years, Arnie was an avid bowler and fast-pitch softball player. The graveside service will be held on Tuesday, July 26 at 3p.m. at the Arlington West area of Evergreen Memorial Gardens. The service will include a special Fireman's Bell Ceremony. In lieu of flowers, his family encourages those who wish to make a contribution to consider donating to the American Cancer Society or the Vancouver Firefighters Association. Please sign his guest book at: www.columbian.com/obits.

Tribute Wall



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Evergreen Memorial Gardens - July 03, 2025 at 07:08 PM



“ Arnie,

You were such an inspiration to me as my Step-Dad, which goes without saying, you were more than that to me. I thank you so very much for "ALL" you did for, and said to me as you gave me "words of wisdom" before, during and after my Navy days. I thank you for your service during the Korean War and for your Fire fighting service too. You touched so many lives over the years. You'll be sorely missed. We love and miss you very much! God Bless you!

Duane Choquette - August 18, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ Was fortunate to work with Arnie for 20 years at Evergreen Dist. He was a very reliable employee and was liked by all. He will be missed by all who knew him

Leo Jones - July 26, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ Our condolences to you for your loss. Anie was an inspiration for many of us in the Vancouver Fire Department. I enjoyed many conversations with him. Joe and Roxy Mackey

Joe Mackey - July 25, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JM

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Joe Mackey - July 25, 2016 at 12:00 AM

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“ Our sincere condolences to Arnie's family. May you draw strength from God at this sad time.

1 Peter 5:10 - July 24, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ Arnie was a great stepdad to my husband Duane and grandpa to our daughter Kaitlyn. He will be missed tremendously. All our love, Duane, Colleen and Kaitlyn Choquette

July 23, 2016 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ A dear friend to our family We shared many happy moments with Fire Dept family Rest in peace Arnie

Karen Frauen Johnson / Ed Johnson Frauen Girls - July 23, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CV

“ Sending Prayers and Peace for Rosie and the family.
Sincerely,
Colette Vaughn-Glenn, Connor Glenn & Darlene Vaughn. (Duanes sister in-law).

Colette Vaughn-Glenn - July 23, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ *Maria, Scott, Debbie, Tina and the rest of his family I am so sorry for the loss of Uncle Arnold. He was a very big part of my younger years. I can't imagine what a loss he is too all of you. I pray you find peace that he is no longer sick and in pain.*

Donna Collins - July 21, 2016 at 12:00 AM

GD

“ *Our family got to know Arnie when he worked at the fire department with my husband, Jim Davis. We will never forget him. After my husband passed, when he saw me, he never failed to ask how I and my kids were. He made a special effort one time to send me pictures he had taken of several POW/MIA functions. Rest in Peace Arnie.*

Gwen Davis - July 21, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Thank you for your service, Arnie, to our country during the Korean Conflict and to our local community during your firefighting days. Rest in peace.*

July 19, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ *Sorry to read about Arnie passing*

Bruce Daniels - July 19, 2016 at 12:00 AM