



## Ernest E. Back

August 6, 1932 - January 1, 2025

No obituary found for this tribute.

# Tribute Wall



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

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**Evergreen Memorial Gardens** - July 03, 2025 at 06:14 PM

“ Journey of Life for Ernest E Back

Ernie was born to Tom and Ethel Back on August 6th, 1932. He was delivered

in a doctor's office in Oswego Kansas which is still standing to this day. Ernie

was the youngest of all his siblings. The oldest was his sister, Wilma Orr,

followed by his Brothers Max, then Dale, and Dean. Ernie's younger cousin,

named Stanley, came to live with the family. He always referred to Stanley as

his brother. They have all since gone to rest. Ernie is now at rest along with his

daughter, Teresa Roth, his son, Douglas and Grandson, Thomas Back.

Back in the day his dad, (Tom) was farming with mules when he decided he

would buy a tractor. The tractor he bought was a John Deere B 1936 or 1937.

His dad took him out to the tractor and set him on the seat then took him on the

ride of his life. When Ernie saw the John Deere tractors he was mesmerized

and it's all he could think about. At that time it was the closest thing to heaven.

When Ernie was in the 1st grade, it was a 2 mile walk to school in Oswego

KS. It was right up the road, but to him it seemed like 100 miles.

When

he finally made it to school he was worn out! Ernie later graduated from

Columbus Kansas High school also known as "Cherokee Community High".

His graduation class was small at 100 kids. While growing up Ernie learned a

valuable lesson from his Dad; that if you do a lot of things you learn

a lot of things. Which he continued to pass along to his kids. Ernie worked with his brother Dean after High School (1949) in Kinsley Kansas for the wheat harvest. Dean stated that when the harvest was over he was going back to college, he recommended that Ernie should go with him. Ernie replied quickly with a NO, and explained he was planning on going to Denver Colorado. His first job in Colorado was working at the Colorado Potato Flake Manufacturing Company making \$.75 cents an hour. He then got a better paying job at North Denver Transfer & Storage making \$1.62 an hour. This gave him the impression he was going to be a millionaire at this pace. He later ended up working for the Post Office making \$1.75 an hour. One day Ernie received a letter, "Greetings from the President of the United States" in 1951, stating he had been selected for the draft. He chose the Air Force over the Army. His M.O.S was camera repair because he scored so well in the electronics category. His first duty station was in Korea. His job was to up-load spotting cameras on guns and bombs. The aircraft he worked on was the B26's. Upon receiving his Certificate of Release, an Honorable discharge, he settled down in San Diego, CA. To be near his sister, Wilma. In 1956, Ernie worked for General Dynamics on the Atlas Missile Program. He got married and had his first child, Douglas, born in Barstow CA, October 9th, 1957. With his wife, at the time, Shirley Bole Back. Ernie called

himself a  
space craft gypsy. Moving from five different states and contractors  
at various  
bases. His second son, Mike, was born in Cheyenne, Wyoming on  
April 27,  
1960, just in time for a blizzard. After some hardships, Ernie and  
Shirley  
separated. Ernie's career took him up into the Pacific Northwest  
with his boys.  
All told he worked 11 years in Aerospace, 5 years with Motorola. He  
became a  
sales estimator for Accurate Concrete Cutting for the rest of his  
working years.  
He met Rita Roth in Oregon, at the Silverton SDA church. In 1970  
he got  
married to his bride for life, Rita. His family increased with Rita's  
children;  
Michael, Teresa and Melinda Roth. Teresa was his Princess, she  
baked fresh  
cookies for him, Melinda was his baby girl and he would do anything  
for her.  
Michael Roth was his son from day one. He taught the kids to work.  
The 3  
boys baled hay all over Clark County as teenagers. Guess what  
they work  
with? Two cylinder tractors! Mike Back ran the hay rake in the crew,  
( a  
model A John Deere) pulling the rake. Doug ran the 720, 2 cylinder  
diesel on  
a haybine. Michael Roth was the man of the bale. Ernie found  
Michael sitting  
up on his baler with the book figuring out how to rebuild that knotter.  
Ernie  
told him that was pretty technical. Michael had it isolated to the  
problem.  
Ernie and him went and got the parts. Michael said to Ernie, "you  
going to

*put it together?" Ernie said, "nope you are".  
As a member of several Adventist Churches, he was always  
involved serving  
as an Elder, Deacon and on several Committees, especially  
Building projects.  
When he retired his bride and he moved to Wasco, Oregon where  
he found  
and rebuilt, you guessed it, none other than John Deere tractors.  
After a heart  
attack, Rita and Ernie decided they were too far from family so they  
decided  
to move closer to the kids, to Woodburn, Salem, Oregon area.  
Ernie loved his bride Rita and all five of his children dearly. It was a  
treasure  
to have Grandkids and most of all Great Grandkids. Living to be 92  
years  
of age, you see your family grow, continuing on for generations. As  
it  
says In Proverbs 17:6, Grandchildren are the crowning glory of the  
aged;  
He had 10 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren, nieces, nephews,  
several  
grand and great nieces and nephews.  
He will be missed*

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**Lenny Back** - February 14, 2025 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ Q: *What will you never forget about Ernest?*

*A: He told me many stories that I placed in his Journey of life about  
his children. He was very happy to put the grandbabies and great-  
grandbabies on his chest to rock them to sleep when they were  
little. He will be missed.*

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**Lenny Back** - January 22, 2025 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ Ernest E. Back

Lenny Back - January 22, 2025 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ Thank you for always being there



Theresa Shelton - January 20, 2025 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ Grandpa Ernie had the best stories - Best story teller- Tone, dramatic pauses. Love the store of when he was making a sale and Farmer took him up in his plane to try out the receivers. He got to fly over his house and yell down his boys who were playing- or supposed to be working in the yard.



Christina Melendez - January 19, 2025 at 12:00 AM

EB

“ Uncle Ernie holds a place in our hearts and memories. From Dad (Stanley) and all of us....love to all. Mom, Evalyn, Roy, Dorinda, Barry & Grady Back



Evalyn Back - January 14, 2025 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ We have fond memories of camping. All ways a fun time with many laughs and of course stories  
They lived in Wasco, Washington and we lived in Goldendale, Washington the two cities were just across the river from each other.  
A friendship developed that lasts a lifetime.  
Stories about "back in the day " told!

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**Don and Marcia Goodwin** - January 13, 2025 at 12:00 AM

MO

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you.



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**Made in Oregon** - January 11, 2025 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Ernest E. Back

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**Mike BACK** - January 07, 2025 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Ernest E. Back

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**Mike BACK** - January 06, 2025 at 12:00 AM

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“ Ernest E. Back

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Mike BACK - January 05, 2025 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Ernest E. Back

Mike BACK - January 05, 2025 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Ernest E. Back

Michael Ray Back - January 03, 2025 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Evergreen Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Funeral Chapel and Crematory

A Memorial Tree was planted for Ernest E. Back - January 03, 2025 at 12:00 AM