



Halford Jack Tye

March 31, 1935 - October 25, 2013

Halford (Hal) Jack Tye 3/31/35 to 10/25/13 Between the numbers and forward slash marks that record the dates we enter and leave this planet, is the relatively small, yet hugely significant, word "to." Captured within it is all that is of any consequence: what we did, how and where we lived, whom we loved, and most importantly, why we mattered. Hal Tye was born in Rosalia, Washington in 1935. The oldest of three sons, his family moved to Port Angeles in 1947 where his mother Velma worked as teacher, and father Bill farmed the family acreage. After graduating from Port Angeles High School in 1953, Hal returned to the Palouse. He attended Washington State University, was a member of the AKL fraternity, and developed a life long devotion to the Cougs. He graduated in 1958 with a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural economics. In 1960, Hal married Karen Y. Thompson in Yakima, Washington. They spent their honeymoon in a red Volkswagon bug traveling the Alkan highway, on their way to Alaska. There, Hal began a new career with the Alaska Department of Agriculture. Their oldest daughter Kym, was born there in 1961. In 1962, the family reversed their trip heading back to Washington State in the same red bug. Hal went to work for the JR Simplot Company in Sunnyside, Washington in 1963. Daughter Krista was born in 1964, and the family moved to a small farm. They enjoyed gardening, growing strawberries, and raising bum lambs and calves. Hal quickly moved from salesman to manager and enjoyed multiple promotions, moving the family from Sunnyside to Pocatello, Idaho just after daughter Jill was born in 1968.

From Pocatello, the family moved to Boise, before settling in Yakima, Washington where Hal ended his career in 1991 as the district manager of the Yakima and Willamette valleys. Hal and Karen retired to Allyn, Washington. They enjoyed building and living in a lakefront home, before moving to Vancouver in 2007. In between having daughters and being a valued, successful company leader, Hal lived. He loved his wife of 53 years, enjoyed her gourmet cooking, and turned off the lights every time she left the room. He loved to travel, took amazing photographs, fished, crabbed, watched football games, camped, attended church, gardened, and invested. Hal volunteered; he belonged to the Lions Club, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church Free Lunch Program, and served as a Master Gardener. Hal loved dogs Yogi was the son he never had. He enjoyed a friendly competition with his brothers (Cliff and Gary Tye), and partnered with his friends in the purchase of Ross Lake Resort, he served as president for twenty years. He read, learned the latest technology, and enjoyed country music. Hal adored his grandchildren (Tyeson, Brooke, Jacob, Brooklyn, Sondra, Jenna, Jackson, and Cooper), and was constantly delighted by his great-granddaughter Gwenne. But most importantly, Hal loved. Constantly. Unconditionally. Always. He was a perpetual, positive presence in the lives of those he touched. He never said a bad thing about any human being, and truly believed that 99% of the things you worry about never happen. Our father, by his own admission, lived a good life. He had a tremendously positive impact on the lives of others. Hal Tye was a great man. He will be missed, but never forgotten. A memorial service for Hal will be held on Saturday, Nov. 2nd at 1:30 in the afternoon at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Vancouver, Washington, followed by a Cougar tailgate at the Tye home. Please join us, sporting your crimson and gray and WSU gear. In lieu of flowers, please make a contribution to WSU Alumni Association, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church Free Lunch Program, or Lion's Club. "A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in." -Greek Proverb

Tribute Wall



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Evergreen Memorial Gardens - July 03, 2025 at 06:56 PM

KL

“ We are happy to have known Hal and shared some time with him.

Kent and Jo Lovelace - November 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JY

“ Karen and family, so sorry to here of the passing of Hal. I too, spent a lot of years with the Simplot Co. and working and knowing Hal was certainly a pleasure. He did love his Cougs and he was always a positive influence on anyone who new or worked with him. Nice job on his write up. You captured him well. Sincerely..... Jimmie Yorgensen

Jimmie Yorgensen - November 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Times spent with Hal, Karen, Kym, Krista, Jill and families are memories of joy, laughter, discovery and friendship. We'll miss our favorite photographer, his quest for the freshest bounty of the earth, his love a good joke and his genuine gracious concern.

James B Randall - October 31, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PT

“ We will miss our brother Hal so very much...he was a wonderful man with so much spunk and love. Our times spent with him will forever be remembered and engraved in our hearts. God now has his arms around him and he is smiling as he always does...we love you Hal. Love your brother Gary and Patty Anne

Patricia Tye - October 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Hal - as we all respectfully called him worked in the Regional office when I was employed at Simplot. We should have addressed him as Mr. Tye, due to his position, but he told us to just call him Hal. He was such a great person and always very soft spoken with kind words. Even when things were not going so well he was the one to try to look at the bright side. Even after all these years when Arina Vierck (my regional supv) sent me the notice of Hals passing the image of him came right back. I think this describes my feeling best: There are many people that we meet in our lives, but only a few will make a lasting impression on our minds and hearts. It is these people that we will think of and who will always remain important to us.

Susan Shepard - October 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM

IM

“ So sorry for the loss of your Dad. You are all in my thoughts at this time.

Isabella Miller - October 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AD

“ *I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Tye on a few different occasions. He was such a lovely, gentle man. His love for his daughters and grandchildren was very apparent. His memory and his legacy of kindness will live on forever through those that love him! My prayers & condolences to all of the family!*

Amber Dietrich - October 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM