



Jack Russell Niemela

August 21, 1945 - October 20, 2013

Jack Russell Niemela, 68, of Clatskanie passed away October 20, 2013 at SW Medical Center in Vancouver, Washington. He was born August 21, 1945 in Portland, Oregon to Robert and Sinah Niemela. A Clatskanie resident most of his life, Jack followed the tradition of his Finnish family and became the fourth generation to fish commercially on the Columbia River. His fishing career also included the waters of Puget Sound and Bristol Bay Alaska. In addition to fishing, for 11 years he was owner and operator of a long haul truck delivering merchandise for Combined Transport across the United States. He was a member of The Columbia River Fisherman's Protective Union and the Fraternal Order of the Eagles. Jack lived the past ten years in Prineville, recently returning to Clatskanie which in his heart always had been home. He enjoyed traveling to Puerto Vallarta and wintering in Yuma. His other interests were grandchildren, family, golfing, hunting and fishing. He was a great cook and was known for the best salmon barbecues and smoked fish. Many friends became his extended family sharing dinners, holidays, huntings trips and travels. He was there to support their children at sporting events, graduations, and weddings. They lovingly called him "Uncle Jack." He never met a stranger and reached out to all ages especially children. He would often visit his wife's classroom causing a moment of chaos as he moved around teasing the students and making them laugh. He married his beloved soulmate, Sandra Commerford, on August 3, 1979 who survives him at the new home they built in Clatskanie. Also surviving are two daughters , Kelly Niemela (Kelly Butcher)

of North Plains, Oregon and Bobbi Jo Niemela of Las Vegas, Nevada; son, Kevin (Lesa) of Sand Point, Idaho; grandsons, Christian and Noah Niemela; an aunt, Virginia Pesio of Clatskanie; many favorite nieces, nephews, cousins and close friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Dixie; and a grandson, Adrian. Jack will be remembered for his broad smile, sense of humor, and genuine kindness. The community will miss his big heart as he was always there to help those in need. A Celebration of Life is planned for 11:00 Saturday, November 9, 2013 at the American Legion Hall in Clatskanie. Memorial donations in Jack's name may be made to Salmon for All, PO Box 56, Astoria, Oregon 97103 or Columbia River Maritime Museum, 1792 Marine Drive, Astoria, Oregon 97103. Arrangements are being handled by Evergreen Memorial Gardens, Vancouver.

Tribute Wall

BN

“ Love you and miss you so much dad!!

Bobbi Niemela - May 30, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ I remember as a child growing up in Alaska and spending summer months visiting my Mom's families in Potland Oregon area. Gramma Ada Ruth of St. Helens, Bunce was her maiden name, father was Fred Alonso Hiatt. I remember meeting Jack Bunce whom I believe Jack Niemla was named after. I have family photos of Sinah and family. I am also neice of Albert R Davey, (deceased), Rissman's of Astoria (Uncle & Iris (Hiatt) Aunt. The Hiatt family every memorial weekend would meet in Clatskanie at the cemetary up behind where school buses park and we'd decorate 3 generations of graves for Hiatt/Bunce & Pope sites of stones. I'm so sorry I never made it to visit Jack & Sandra in Prineville. My condolences to to Sandra & family. Jeannette Bardi, Hillsboro, Oregon 97123

Jeannette A Bardi (granddaughter of Ruth Ada Hiatt(Bunce) - April 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Sandy, So sorry for your loss. I know it will be such a loss for you. I so remember the visit we had with you and Jack, how much fun we had and how much Jason loved you. My prayers and thoughts are with you at this time and I hope that we can get in touch at a later time. I am in Alaska and Jason is in Washington state so am down that way at times. Please email me when you are feel like getting in touch. Condolences to all of your family. Janie Gennaro

Janie Gennaro - November 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ I've loved you since i was born. We spent 44 years together and that's way to short. I think of you day and night and wish for a sign that your looking after me. I still can't imagine that I can't see you again in this life and that I'll not be able to hear your laughter, Kiss you mustache and her you call me Michelle. I think that I'll miss that most. You were a fantastic amazing father, husband and friend. The love you had for everyone was infectious and you touched so many lives. I can only hope that I live on this legacy of yours and the spirit that you had for live. I miss you so and I know you are in heaven fishing and sitting in the sun with your shorts on!! DAD I LOVE YOU FOREVER MORE. YOUR DAUGHTER KELLY "MICHELLE".. Look over me!!

Kelly Niemela - October 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM