



Lee Wright Cave

April 4, 1928 - September 30, 2010

Lee was born in Spokane, WA April 4, 1928, and passed away on September 30, 2010. Lee is survived by his wife of 62 years, Audrey; his sister, Alice Cave Day of Mt. Vernon; his sister-in-law, Nancy Cave of Wenatchee; his 5 children: Chelinda Dettorre (Gene), Allyson "Bud" Cave (Cheryl Gabriel), Valerie Mortek (John), Ellyn Papenfuse (Steve Rajeff), Scott Cave (Sherry); and 16 grandchildren: Danielle Dettorre Wassink (Kip), Andrea Dettorre Buckler (Evan), Taylor Cave, Derek Cave, Joe Hill, David Hill, Cheyanne Mortek Knight, Jesse Mortek, Rachael Mortek, Trigve Papenfuse (Tristin), Seth Papenfuse (Alisha), Tove Papenfuse (Gwen), Si Cave, Nigel Cave, Scott Deuel (Tonya), and James Deuel (Rebecca). He was preceded in death by his parents, Roy and Irene Cave; and his brother, Allen. After serving 2 years in the Navy, he attended Washington State University on a Track Scholarship. In 1951, at the Drake Relays in Iowa, the WSU men's 2 mile relay team consisting of Lee Cave, George Stimac, Clem Eishen, and Bill Parnell, won the gold medal shattering the previous mark set a decade earlier by Drake University. After graduating from WSU, Lee taught primarily PE and Biology in the Vancouver School District between 1957 and 1983. He mentored many athletes over the last 57 years in Cross Country, Track, Swimming, Basketball, and Football. He was inducted into the Washington State Hall of Fame for both Cross Country (1981) and Track and Field (1996) making him one of only 2 coaches inducted in two sports at the time. A celebration of Lee's life will be held at Columbia River High School, 800 NW 99th St. on Sunday, Oct. 10th

from 1:00-3:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers or gifts, the Cave family respectfully encourages donations in the name of "Lee Cave" to be sent to any iQ Credit Union.

Tribute Wall



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Evergreen Memorial Gardens - July 03, 2025 at 09:39 PM



“ I remember Mr Cave saying that when he came home from work his wife looked like she stepped out of a magazine. He loved teaching, and made biology understandable and enjoyable.

Ann (Perry) Murphy - October 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM