



Roger W. Jones

August 19, 1949 - September 14, 2020

On Monday, September 14th 2020, Roger Jones ended his two-year long courageous fight with a very rare type of cancer called Chordoma. Roger was 71 years old.

Roger was born in 1949 to Harlan and Geraldine Jones of Ridgefield, WA. His father, a second generation farmer, dedicated his life to a successful berry and vegetable farm. The family was well connected to the community, and served as a resource for families to earn money picking beans, strawberries, and cucumbers. Many families would bring children of all ages to work alongside their parents. The tales the Jones boys told of the life on the farm could now be called "legend". Roger took extreme pride in his roots and humored many people with stories of life on the farm.

Roger attended Ridgefield High school, graduating in 1968. After high school, and using the buddy system, Roger joined the Air Force with his childhood friend, Jerry Bochart. During his service, he was stationed at Masawa air force base in Japan. Later, he served in Las Vegas, and Arizona. He returned home in 1973, attended Clark College, became a welder and married Debby Koethe in 1974. His first son Darren was born in 1976. He was then accepted to attend Eastern WA University, and moved to Cheney Washington. He stayed in Cheney until earning a Bachelor's degree and certificate in teaching. After graduation, he was hired for his first teaching position in Forest Grove,

Oregon. After teaching a full year and living in Hillsboro Oregon, he decided to look for a teaching position closer to his still active family farm. Roger was able to get a position in Battleground Washington at Pleasant Valley Middle School teaching industrial arts. He continued to teach there for 35 years retiring in 2014 with the last active woodshop in Clark County. Through this time, he continued to support his mom and dad with the Farm, coached baseball, basketball, soccer and attended postgraduate school earning a Masters Degree plus 90 credits.

Roger was a strong man who made friends wherever he went. He loved to do woodworking projects at home. His crafty, inventive nature was invested in his boys through things like building decks during the summer breaks, and building random wood projects at his shop. One of his bigger projects was the tiny house he built on the property he owned. He liked to garden, and play poker with his friends at the card room in La Center. He made his last 2 and ½ years happy in spite of his illness, taking each turn in the road as it came.

To family and friends who knew him well, he was a very unique guy and could always make people laugh. He could tell a great joke and sometimes a long story. People loved to hear them. Roger had a vibrant, unique, charismatic, lovable personality and could always light up a room, as well as make anyone feel great just by being around him. There was no one he wouldn't befriend. We loved him deeply. He will never be forgotten. He is survived by his wife Debby, of forty six years, his two children Darren and Dan with his wife, and 5 grandchildren Charlotte, Jacki, Kati, Annabell, and Theodore. Thanks to hospice for all of their caring, compassionate help and for being there anytime of day or night. In lieu of flowers, in memory of Roger, a donation may be made to Firm Foundation Christian School in Battle Ground, Wa. Please send to remembrances to Evergreen Memorial Gardens.

Tribute Wall



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Evergreen Memorial Gardens - July 03, 2025 at 06:28 PM

DJ

“Coming up on Christmas I remember the best. Mom and dad were not rich people, and they worked so hard for the opportunities we had. I had been playing the electric guitar for about 2 years at this point and my brother, the drums. My parents tolerated our heavy metal that they didn't get at already crazy volumes. I had a pa tower that I had replaced the blown speakers with 10 dollar "thump" speakers from car stereo city. The most Jimmy rigged setup... My brother, had the most beat up swingerland set I had ever seen. I traded someone some baseball cards for it. The heads were missing bolts. Dad had taken us to music lessons weekly (A routine that was carried on for years after). Dad knew our instruments were very poor quality and cared so much about music he didn't even like. In fact, most people wouldn't. It was completely obnoxious. That Christmas my Mom and Dad decided to sacrifice an amazing amount of money to buy us concert style equipment for our hobby. It must have cost near 2000 and Dad likely paid that for the next year. In fact, I know they did. They pretended like they could only afford a few clothes on Christmas morning. My dad pretends to be distraught saying "I am just so sorry we couldn't afford much this year". It's ok Dad, we said already smiling and accepting. He ran out of the house, we look out the bent shades of the window to see his nearly broken down pickup kind of awkwardly accelerating trying to reverse the rear of the truck to the front door. They had bought a brand new tama drum set for Danny and a peavey MS412 cabinet for me. I played that for almost 20 years. Concerts, recording. I will never forget how special that made me and my brother feel. They tried so hard to make a normal kid exceptional. Dad only wanted me to do what I really wanted most. Even if it wasn't something he even completely understood. Mom and Dad bought us equipment to play music they didn't like, louder. That's the Jones family as I know it, that was my Dad and also it is what I truly hope to be for Jacki and Kati. I love you so much Dad and miss talking to you every day.

Darren Jones - December 22, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ I am the newest sister-in-law to this family but have always been accepted warmly by the Jones family. I am grateful to have known Roger. His warm and sometimes goofy (said with affection) personality will be missed. He was willing to lend a hand and always with a smile. When we needed someone to stay with Greg when I was away, he was there for us and when we needed a hand at a project, he was there as well. Cheers to a life well lived but taken too soon. Rest in Peace Roger.

Jane Jones - October 09, 2020 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ It's not easy to put into words what such a pillar in the family means to you after they are gone, but I will try. We watched Roger fight hard and remain optimistic in every way. But on September 14th, 2020, my father-in-law lost his battle with Chordoma. He was brave, tough as nails, and yet gentle with us as we all worked through coming to terms with his cancer. Roger comforted Charli when she cried and gave hugs to the kids each time we visited. He never gave up hope, asking the kids to keep praying for him and for a miracle. I am proud and blessed to be part of the Jones family. They welcomed me in after Dan started bringing me around - Roger and Debby have always treated me as their own daughter. One of the things I wanted to be sure Roger knew, was how grateful I am that I had so many wonderful years with him. I told him that I will always be thankful that I had him with us on our wedding day, there when we brought each of our three babies home from the hospital, there when anything broke in the house or a car, every birthday and every holiday, recitals and shows for the kids, backyard parties, and so much more. Roger made bird houses with my kids and vegetable salads out of his garden that he took so much pride in growing, and always had time to just sit and ask me what was new in my life. Even as everything grew harder, Roger would tuck in his bottom lip and make that familiar relaxed face and say, "well, it's all gonna be just fine." I will take so much with me as I go forward in this life without him. I'll try to make others feel welcome in a crowded room by asking them questions about themselves, because that's what he did. I'll try to be in the moment with my kids and nieces and ask them what they think, because that's what he did. I'll try to look at the bright side even in the most dire of situations, because that is exactly what he did, right to the very end. I am honored to be part of carrying on the Jones name because of you, Roger. We will never forget and we will never stop telling all the stories. We miss you. Rest in peace, dad. I love you. - Staci

Staci - October 06, 2020 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Roger was my nephew. We were raised together and he was more like a younger brother that always had a funny story to tell. Always had a little laugh all the while he was talking to you. He was a wonderful man and will be missed by everyone he came in contact with. He was very proud of his family and always shared what was happening. Rest in Peace Roger and we will be together again.
Love you forever Aunt Sandy

Sandy Mathers - October 06, 2020 at 12:00 AM

GJ

“ Roger was my closest brother in age - 3 years my senior. We stayed close our entire lives and even lived together for a while when I graduated from HS and he was discharged from the air force. If he had been a character on *The Ponderosa*, Roger would have been Hoss. He was strong as an ox, but gentle as a lamb. He protected me throughout my life as I'm sure he has protected Debby, Darren and Dan. Lord knows, I needed him to come to my rescue more than once. Most recently was 3 years ago. Roger stayed with me for a few days while Jane was on a trip. He was outside helping me with a project. I was in the house when I leaned out too far in front of me and fell out of my wheelchair. I wasn't hurt, so laid on the floor until Roger came in from outside. When he saw me on the floor, he laughed at first. Then reality set in as he thought how he was going to lift me back into the chair. Most people would have dialed 911 at this point, but Roger and I never discussed going that route. I had practiced fall recovery with my PT, but never got beyond a kneeling position. Roger helped me get into a kneeling position, then he gave me a bear hug and lifted my 250 lbs of dead weight onto the wheelchair. Just as he has done my entire life, Roger came to my rescue. Its a wonder he didn't have a heart attack. He collapsed into a chair and was visibly exhausted - probably wondering "when did my little brother get so dang big?". But, that was all there was to it. He saw me in trouble and came to my rescue. Rest in Peace big brother. Lord knows you deserve it!!

Greg Jones - October 06, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ Roger is my a brother-in-law so I've known him since 1971. I love Roger and miss him very much. I will always remember his smile and big hugs. He loved to tell you about the great book he had just read or a cute story about a grandchild. What a dear sweet man. Rest In Peace, Roger❤️

Jo Dee Jones - October 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM

KJ

“ *Uncle Roger is in our thoughts.* ”

Kyle and Hilary Jones - October 05, 2020 at 12:00 AM