



## Thomas James Laidlaw

August 28, 1937 - September 27, 2017

THOMAS JAMES LAIDLAW August 28, 1937 ~ September 27, 2017 Thomas James Laidlaw, 80, died on Wednesday, September 27th, after battling prostate cancer. Tom was born in Evanston, Illinois, and lived in the Chicago area until 1981, when he relocated to Washington. Tom was an electrician by trade, but his real passions were acting and creative pursuits. These pursuits included everything from working as a square dance caller to being involved in community theater. Tom dedicated much of his later years to historical reenactment and education in the Pacific Northwest. Tom led tours at local historic sites (Fort Vancouver, Oregon City's Oregon Trail Center, Champoeg State Park), and designed educational programs and materials for a variety of groups and institutions. He was an active leader with Road Scholar (formerly Elderhostel Travel Tours) for sixteen years, specializing in Lewis and Clark history. Tom is survived by his four children and their spouses, his younger sister and brother, as well as ten grandchildren. Of all his endeavors, Tom's family was ultimately his most important one. Tom made time to engage in the activities that were important to his family-even learning how to make skateboards with his sons and grandsons. He passed along his love and knowledge of woodworking, history and science, and the written word. He will be remembered for his creativity, determination, and love of learning. Memorial service to be held Saturday, October 7th at 10a.m., at Evergreen Memorial Gardens. Viewing Friday, October 6th, 9a.m.-9p.m. Please sign his Guest Book at [www.columbian.com/obits](http://www.columbian.com/obits)



# Tribute Wall



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**Evergreen Memorial Gardens** - July 03, 2025 at 07:29 PM



“ Tom, We look forward to your greetings for each of us reliving our heritage.

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**Chuck H Olympia, WA** - October 04, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ Tom was a creative, passionate man with such a love of history. I feel proud to have known him. Rest in Peace.

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**Gretchen Van de Water** - October 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM