



## Alvin "Catfish" Alonzo Griggs

August 6, 1937 - April 24, 2022

Alvin Alonzo "Catfish" Griggs  
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East Wenatchee, Washington

Alvin Griggs beloved father, grandfather, brother, and friend died on April 24, 2022.

Alvin was born in Waterville, WA to Marcus E and Bernice Griggs on August 6, 1937. He graduated from Wenatchee High school in 1955. He attended several years of college at WSU in Pullman, WA before being drafted into the army where he served for several years. He spent the rest of his career as an orchardist while also pursuing his love and talent in song writing on the side. He loved music and was writing songs and playing the piano during the final years of his life.

Alvin married the love of his life, Jeanette Griggs (Lancaster) on May 15, 1965. Together they had four children and remained married for 53 years before Jeanette's passing in 2018. Alvin adored his wife and always smiled at the mention of her name, even after her death. His family will not ever forget the devotion and care that he provided to Jeanette during the last years of her life. He brought true meaning and action to the word love.

Alvin enjoyed a good tease and liked to make people laugh. In his younger years, he enjoyed playing softball, fishing, and camping. He loved God and he loved his family. His heart was huge, and he was always able to see the good in everyone. He was very kind and compassionate and able to see when someone was having a bad day. He was the biggest fan to each of his children and grandchildren, always helping them see their own potential.

Alvin is survived by his children Penney Griggs (Scott) of Orondo, WA; Pamela Griggs of Phoenix, AZ, Dan Griggs (Erin) of East Wenatchee, WA, Debbie Griggs of East Wenatchee, WA; siblings Marcus J Griggs, (Kathleen), Flora Lancaster and brother-in law Gary Nevens; 11 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, and longtime best friend Frank Raines. He was preceded in death by his wife, Jeanette; parents, Marcus E and Bernice Griggs; his siblings Lorraine Knemeyer, Jeanine Ray, Harold Griggs; brother- in-laws Marvin Ray and and Richard Lancaster; sister-in- law Pat Griggs, and granddaughter Kayley Griggs.

A Rosary vigil will be held on Wednesday April 27, 2022, at 6:00 pm at Heritage Memorial Chapel, located at 19 Rock Island Road, East Wenatchee, WA. A Funeral Mass will be held on Thursday April 28th at 11:00 Am at Holy Apostles Catholic Church, located at 1315 8th street NE, East Wenatchee, WA.

# Tribute Wall

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“ There are many things about Alvin I would like to share. First, he was graduating high school the year I was born in 1955. He came into our life when he met my sister Jeanette. I was somewhere around 8 or 9 and my younger sister was 5 or 6. We instantly loved him because when he would come to the house to pick up Jeanette for a date he was the biggest kid in the room. He played games and told silly jokes for what seemed like hours. It didn't end there because after they were married we often would stay with them for the weekend. Frequently we went on picnics and enjoy the outdoors.

They lived in Orondo so in the summer we would go swimming in the river and this is where I learned about "toe biters". He told us while he was underwater he would see them and the funny thing is we felt them! He assured us that he chased them away. He was an excellent swimmer and spent a lot of time teaching us. "Toe biters" scared me though and to this day when my foot hits the water on a beach I equate them to sharks in the ocean.

Alvin sang a lot and some of them were songs he wrote. He was a beautiful pianist and helped me to play. I never developed like him but in the two years I took lessons, Alvin and Jeanette made it to my recitals. In addition Alvin would sub for my dad for events that I needed a dad present and he couldn't be because he was working. The most memorable was a father-daughter banquet. It was a happy time! They made it to my school plays and concerts to encourage me and show support. They made sure to see me in the marching band at the Apple Blossom Festival. They were my number one fans for many years.

I learned to drive at the age of 9 in a 49 Ford pickup that required double clutching. When it came close to getting my license and I had never driven a car Alvin filled the role of teacher. My dad struggled in fear of my driving and Alvin was ever so patient and never showed fear.

During the holidays my grandfather insisted we play pinochle. Alvin taught me to play and many years were spent being his or dad's partner.

My sister and I were given the opportunity to pick cherries in the

*Griggs orchards. Well, I found him sleeping in his jeep at the end of a row and he caught me sleeping in a tree. I still wonder how I was able to do that.*

*As the years passed, I married and moved away so my visits to Jeanette and Alvin were yearly when I came home. Alvin loved to talk politics and he eventually was able to convince me to see things his way. I looked forward to hearing what he had to say and didn't realize until years later what an influence he was on my views.*

*Alvin loved God and I never saw him when he didn't tell me "God loves you and so do I".*

*Throughout my life he taught me. I don't think he realized how important he was. I will always remember and be grateful for all that he did. He was my father, brother-in-law, teacher and friend. Rest in Peace brother Alvin, you are finally with my beautiful sister Jeanette, together forever.*

*Patty Lancaster Sorrentino*

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**Patricia Sorrentino** - April 27, 2022 at 09:16 PM