



## Ben Lester Fritz

November 11, 1951 - July 7, 2021

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Wenatchee, Washington

Ben Lester Fritz, age 69, passed to glory at home Wednesday 7-7-21 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Born Veterans Day 1951 (he said they had a parade!) to Lester and Lila Fritz, he attended Wenatchee schools and graduated from Wenatchee High in 1969. Shortly after, Ben joined the Navy as a marine mechanic but was severely burned on the USS Sperry in drydock, spending 9 months at Balboa Naval Hospital before medical discharge, receiving the National Defense Service Medal in 1971.

After recovering, he attended Burnley Commercial Arts College in Seattle earning a degree and returning to Wenatchee full of enthusiasm to start a business with sister Sherry. After the business did not take off, he went to work for the Wenatchee Post Office, first as a letter sorter, then front counter where the town was able to enjoy his wit and humor. During his employment he became President of the Local AFL-CIO Postal Workers Union.

Ben was active with Wenatchee's "Little Theatre", building many stage sets

and clever outcomes. One of his great joys was being an Apple Blossom float judge for over 20 years.

On March 30, 2012, Ben married Denise Brown Wallin in Wenatchee. They expanded his "wonagon" cabin on the family's historical property (since 1903!), adding electricity, water, and lots of pets and love.

Ben is survived by his wife Denise, sister Sherry Warren, nieces Amy (Donald) Warren and Jessica and Amy Brown, and Nephew Erik (Cara) Warren. An enormous joy and blessing were found in Great-Nieces and Nephews Delilah Stephens, Brandon Stephens, Stephanie Beagle, Ellorie Warren, and Marshall Warren. So many cousins were a delight to him and dear to his heart.

A Funeral Mass will be held at St Joseph's Catholic Church, 625 S Elliot Ave on Monday, July 19, 2021 at 11:00 am - with inurnment at Wenatchee Cemetery immediately following. Friends and Family are invited to Wenatchee Eagles after the service for "farewell" gathering.

# Tribute Wall

SB

“ *May his memory be a blessing.*

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**Steve Buff** - July 19, 2021 at 01:22 PM

DM

“ *We are so sorry to hear of Ben Fritz's passing. I graduated from high school with Ben and we were great friends. He was best man at our wedding in 1975, our friendship continued every time we made it back to Wenatchee. He always had interesting things to entertain our kids including an amazing treehouse. Happy trails Ben.*

*Dennis Markey 'Pink'*

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**Dennis Markey** - July 18, 2021 at 01:07 AM

CL

“ *Ben and I were members of WHS Thespians in 1969. I remember Ben as a brilliant and creative person. This is based on the incredible set for a play that he both designed and painted. I think the play was something like "Under the Sycamore Tree", but I'm not sure that is completely right. That year, it was my job to design and make sets for the plays. But it should have been Ben's.. he had a wonderful sense for it. I was and still am envious of his ability and talent. It's been many years since high school.. I've often thought about Ben and what interesting and creative things he must be doing. I'm so glad I knew him. Cathy Critchell Ladolcetta, Mobile, AL*

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**Catherine Ladolcetta** - July 14, 2021 at 11:00 PM

LM

“ So sorry for your loss Denise may you find comfort in your memories!

*Lisa Mattix*

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**Lisa Mattix** - July 14, 2021 at 03:43 AM

DC

“ To Ben's family

*I am sorry to learn of Ben's passing but he is no longer suffering. I had the honor to know him and work with him at the Wenatchee PO for many years. Godspeed Ben!*

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**Doug Countryman** - July 13, 2021 at 07:15 PM

BT

“ I am so sorry Denise for your loss! I truly know how hard it is and what you are going through! Barb Thornton

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**Barb Thornton** - July 13, 2021 at 12:50 PM

TD

“ I was just thinking of Ben the other day! He was always one of the good guys. I will always remember his laugh!

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**Tammy Donaghue** - July 10, 2021 at 09:36 PM

DC

“ I know you are in heaven with the angels, Ben. So sorry for your loss Denise -- one day you will be with him again.

*With love,*

*Donna*

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**Donna Campbell** - July 10, 2021 at 05:59 PM

V(

“ There was no end to Ben and his creativity. When he suggested we go to a photographer and have some professional portraits done Paul and I jumped at the chance. Ben decided we be just as the world knew us.

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**Vincent DeChiara (venny)** - July 10, 2021 at 03:47 PM

DC

“ God Speed, Ben. - Nothing finer .. than a '69 er.

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**Dann Cutler** - July 10, 2021 at 01:01 PM

DF

“ He was the best thing that ever happened to me.. I am comforted knowing he is in the arms of Jesus and is no longer suffering. We will reunite in God's glory one day ❤️❤️❤️ my Benno..

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**Denise Fritz** - July 10, 2021 at 12:37 PM