



Benjamin Barth Graf

September 3, 1930 - August 26, 2014

Benjamin Barth "Ben" Graf

Ben was born on September 3, 1930 to Karl and Anna Graf in Pittsburgh, PA and passed away on August 26, 2014 at the age of 83 in East Wenatchee, WA. When Ben was 17 the family moved to Selah, WA where he graduated from high school. Ben obtained his AA degree at Yakima Valley Jr. College and then his Bachelors at University of Wyoming on a baseball scholarship. It was during a baseball game, where he was pitching, that he caught the eye of Martha. He recruited her for his wife and they eloped on June 11, 1952. Ben continued an additional year of college while making their home in Laramie, WY. He volunteered for the U.S. Army serving in Japan during the Korean Conflict. Upon discharge they moved to Seattle, WA where he worked at Boeing in flight instrument testing. Ben continued his education at Seattle University, obtaining his Master's Degree. He taught Jr. High School in Seattle before moving to East Wenatchee where he became Head Counselor at Wenatchee High School until his retirement. His hard work and student interest earned Ben recognition as NEA National Counselor of the year. Ben was a longtime member of Greater Wenatchee Lions Club. He was an aviarist raising exotic pheasants, and mastered multiple songbird calls. He loved the outdoors and he and Martha hiked a large section of the Pacific Crest Trail in Washington. Martha and Ben shared their passion for education and enjoyed their students like their own children.

Ben is survived by his wife, Martha, of 62 years; two brothers, Karl Graf, and

Robert (Jean) Graf, both of Selah; sister, Patricia (Robert) Ruyle, Selah; 12 nieces and nephews, and numerous great nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his sister-in-law Leona Graf.

The family wishes to express sincere thanks to Bonaventure Memory Care Staff and Hospice for Ben's care.

An "Open House" to celebrate Ben's life will be held September 6th, 12:00 to 2:00 at Celebration Lutheran Church Community Hall 801 8th NE in East Wenatchee.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances for Ben may be made to Greater Wenatchee Lions or Hospice.

Tribute Wall

SG

“ *Wish I could be there with you to celebrate Ben's life. Such a dear and caring man. Will miss him very much.*

Susan Gibson - September 06, 2014 at 02:18 PM

SD

“ *"Mr Graf" was always very approachable, helpful, and had a great sense of humor. I knew him at WHS 1969-71, and my brother Chris knew him before that.*

I suppose it helped that we weren't (usually) in trouble. He was advisor to the Boys' Club, and we organized rooter buses, the Homecoming bonfire, basketball program sales, etc.

He cared for students, and it showed.

Steve Kirkpatrick, DDS - August 31, 2014 at 06:07 PM

DP

“ *I will miss Ben, even though I haven't seen him for several years. I am his cousin on Martha's side. They are wonderful people and have always been very special to me. Martha, I will continue to keep you in my heart and prayers and try to see you whenever I am over from the coast. I love you!*

Dorthea Paulson - August 30, 2014 at 02:17 PM