Gale Arthur Vradenburg

March 11, 1948 - September 16, 2013

Gale Arthur Vradenburg of Wenatchee died after a very brief battle with cancer, on Monday, September 16, 2013. He was born on March 11, 1948 to Leo and Mildred Vradenburg in Wenatchee, WA. The family lived in Entiat until he was two years old, and then moved to Wenatchee. Gale attended Wenatchee Schools until his senior year when the family moved to East Wenatchee. He graduated from Eastmont High School in 1966. After attending Wenatchee Valley College for 2 years, he transferred to Washington State University graduating in 1970 with a BS degree in Horticulture. To his last day, he loved Cougar football. Go Cougs! He was a member of Acacia Fraternity at WSU. Upon graduation Gale entered the Washington Army National Guard as a clerk Typist or a "Remington Raider" and retired in 1994. The Wenatchee Guard unit nicknamed him "Rader".

Gale worked at the Liberty Theater during high school and college where he met his future wife, Sally. He went to work for Cascadian Fruit Shippers as a Horticulturist/Fieldman when he returned from NG basic training. Gale and Sally were married August 7, 1971. Gale was an amazing husband, father, and Papa. Papa's face lit up every time he saw his grandchildren.

Gale loved the fruit industry and working outdoors. He was employed by Oneonta/Starr Ranch Growers. He'd say he had the best job, "having coffee with growers and petting their dogs." He was a member of the Washington State Horticultural Association.

Gale served as Apple Blossom youth and grand parade chair for parade day

communications and parade marshals with his son, Steven, and was a past board member. He was a member of St. Joseph's and Holy Apostles Catholic Church. He also was a 4th Degree Knight and Past Grand Knight of Knights of Columbus St. Joseph's Council 1545 and member of the City of Wenatchee Code Enforcement Board.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Sally; children, Sarah (Christian) Cox of Parker, CO, Steven (Rebecca) Vradenburg of Cashmere, Krista (Benny) Trapp of Auburn, WA; brothers, Bryce Vradenburg of Marysville, Ronald Vradenburg of Oregon and sister, Suzanne (Jim) Taylor of East Wenatchee; seven grandchildren, Elizabeth, Catherine, Benjamin Vraden, Georgia, Ian, Olivia and Lauren Abigale. Papa will be missed by his grandchildren and all who loved him.

There will be a Rosary at St. Joseph's Catholic Church at 7:00pm, Wednesday, September 25, 2013 and a Memorial Mass at 11:00am on Thursday, September 26, 2013 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Wenatchee.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Cancer Care of NCW, Inc., or the Wenatchee Valley Humane Society.

You are invite to visit his online guest book to leave memories and condolences for his family at: www.HeritageMemorialChapel.com .

Arrangements are in the care of Heritage Memorial Chapel, East Wenatchee.

Tribute Wall

GB

I'm so sorry to only now be finding out about Gale's passing. We were fraternity brothers at WSU and I rembember Gale as a fun loving, friendly and caring person. I especially remember his laugh and sense of humour. Although I hadn't seen him since we graduated my memories of him came back and I wanted to pass this on. My prayers go out to his family and friends. Rest in peace Gale.

Gaylen Blackford

Gaylen Blackford - March 31, 2015 at 01:11 AM

DD

Little did we know when we moved in at 831 Red Apple Road thirty years ago that we landed next door to the best neighbors in the world. Gale was always there with a friendly smile, a cheerful greeting, and a helping hand. Gale's kindnesses and generosity and spark for adventure and fun will be fondly remembered. We miss him dearly.

Don & Linda Dimmitt - October 03, 2013 at 12:51 PM

CC

Ken and I had the opportunity to visit Gale and Sally when Gale was in University hospital about a week before he died. As a convert to the Catholic church I was curious what had encouraged him to convert to Catholicism. He said that when he was young he had seen the problems and toll it took on families to have a split between the parents about their faith so when he married Sally he was confirmed in the church. I know that he loved and served the church, but what really impressed us was how wise he was as a very young man. What a fine example he served for his children in providing the solidarity of faith for his family.
A very sad day for every life Gale touched when he died.

Courtney Cox - September 28, 2013 at 05:58 PM

DW

My heart hurts knowing that Gale will not be handing us our radios for the parades. I can't stop picturing him at Triangle Park standing by his truck with a big smile on his saying..."Good Morning Darc...here we go"! He served the Apple Blossom Festival with joy and love and really made it a family tradition. He did anything we ever needed at any time! I will miss him so much.

Darci Waterman - September 26, 2013 at 12:48 PM

LE

Dear Sally & family, I worked with Gale for 36 years and can't remember a day that he didn't come in smiling. Gale gave his all to the growers he worked with & trust me he had probably the most needy group of growers that Cascadian Fruit had but also some of the best & they all loved working with Gale. I feel blessed to have had known & worked with him for so many years, but know that I will remember him always with one phrase that he always joked about-- It is easier to get forgiveness than it is to get permission. With Much Love Linda Edwards

Linda Edwards - September 24, 2013 at 10:42 PM

KM

I was saddened to hear about Gale's passing. Gale's positive thinking, infectious smile and service to the community, the Washington Tree Fruit Industry and the tree fruit growers in NCW will truely be missed.

Kirk Mayer - September 24, 2013 at 05:43 PM

RA

We knew Gale from church and from the fact that our daughter, Christina attended St. Joe's School and was friends with Krista. Whenever we would see Gale, we knew we could count on his smile greeting us and on his friendliness. We always saw him helping someone or involved in helping some cause or effort at church or in the community. Gale was hard-working, kind, and a true servant of the Lord. We extend our condolences to Sally and family. We pray that you have consolation in knowing that Gale must be in heaven because of the way he lived his life. He was a true model on how a Catholic man should live his life. Gale and your entire family remain in our prayers. With the love of Christ, Kay and Rick Acosta.

Rick and Kay Acosta - September 24, 2013 at 12:18 PM

LF

Gale was just an all around nice guy! I worked with him in the late 70's on the Cascadian company ranches. We attended many industry functions together and played a lot of poker with the boys. Once when I was in the hospital for a few days, we got a heavy snow storm, but I came home to a clean driveway, thanks to Gale. He was that kind of guy, always helping out. He had a great sense of humor and I always enjoyed running into him over the years. It was such a shock to see his obituary, he will be remembered fondly by lives he has touched. My condolences to those closest to him, he will be missed. Sincerely, LeRoy

LeRoy Farmer - September 24, 2013 at 12:02 PM

DR

We pray "God's peace and comfort in the days ahead. We loved Gale and all the family, will miss running into him. I don't know of anyone that didn't like Gale, Everyone all spoke well of him, a work in the orchard, or out having fun. He help so many people.
We will miss him terrible as we know his passing has left a Big hole in your hearts.

Dick & Rosemary Rice - September 23, 2013 at 04:35 PM

SI

Hello All....I am so saddened to learn of Gale's passing. I knew Gale at WHS, then worked with him at Cascadian Fruit Shippers, while I was Acctg Mgr. Gale was always such a good-natured, upbeat, kind guy....everyone enjoyed him at all times. Obviously Gale has such a wonderful family....sadly, it is true, 'the good, they do, sometimes, die young'. My very best to Gale's family and friends. He was a special man.

Steve Isaacson - September 23, 2013 at 01:33 PM

BB

I was devastated upon returning from vacation to learn of Gale's illness and untimely passing. He was a brother and friend for many years and I will miss his smiling face when Apple Blossom 2014 rolls around. May the presence of the Holy Spirit surround you with comfort and fond memories of the wonderful life that was taken too soon.

Bob Blane - September 23, 2013 at 01:16 PM

BB

What a privilege it was to journey through life with Gale. I first met Gale at age 14 when I was initiated into Wenatchee Chapter Order of DeMolay. Gale was Chapter Scribe at the time and I may still have my original membership card with his signature. We enjoyed our time together as brothers in the Chapter and he and I just seemed to naturally hit it off(as Gale did with just about everybody!!). He completed 2 years at 5th Street U and the was off to Pullman to be a Coug (and what a Coug he was!!). As he was finishing his senior year at Wazzu I arrived as a freshman and our friendship was again renewed for a year. We lost communication after that for a time, but when I moved back to Wenatchee in 1978 and began to be involved in Apple Blossom parades, there was my good friend Gale! I soon found out that he had gotten married to a great young lady that I was privileged to be seated next to in the sax section of Golden Apple Band at WHS for a couple of years - Gale always did have great taste!!!

Over the past 30 plus years,I was privileged to sit in planning meetings, gather for final walk-throughs at the Triangle and work on Youth and Grand Parade days with one of the most wonderful guys you could every hope to meet. Gale was friendly,down to earth,professional in every way and a true joy to serve with on the Youth Parade and Grand Parade committees. When Apple Blossom 2014 parade planning begins, it will be a bittersweet time and Gale's presence will be greatly missed. I pray that his son Steve who has worked at Gale's side the past few years will continue the Vradenburg legacy of Apple Blossom service.

My life has been truly enriched by my association with Gale, and I look forward to day when we will be reunited in God's presence and can swap Cougar and Apple Blossom stories again.

May our Lord and the Holy Spirit comfort Sally and all of the family at this difficult time and may the memories that Gale created sustain you in the days and months ahead.

Bob Blane - September 23, 2013 at 01:04 PM

LH

I knew it was all beginning when the truck was in place and Gale was handing out our radios. I can honestly never remember him without a smile on his face. It was honestly the start of Youth Parade Day for me and helped fuel the excitement of getting 4000 little darlings down a parade route. It is by far, my favorite Apple Blossom Day and Gale helped make it that way for me. Though I will miss his smile next April, I will feel his presence. Hugs to all the family. Thank you for sharing this amazing man with all of us.

Linda Haglund - September 23, 2013 at 11:17 AM

DS

Sorry to hear about Gale, my Dad and Pat just called me to tell me the news. I know my Dad worked a bit with Gale and always thought highly of him, as well as I did all the years in junior and high school when Suzanne and I were growing up. Take care and God bless.

Denise (Von Essen) Smith - September 22, 2013 at 11:31 PM

RP

It was my pleasure to have known Gale for the time that I had. As a Brother Knight, Gale exemplified what our Order expects out of each of us. His giving and easy going nature is what I shall remember about Gale. He will be sorely missed by his Brother Knights.

Rich Poole - September 22, 2013 at 12:14 PM

AT

What an amazing man. Gale was a special person to all of us. He will be greatly missed!

Anya Tugaw - September 21, 2013 at 12:45 AM

MP

Gale and I from high school were probably more close acquaintances that friends. Gale and my brother, Patrick shared a close friendship for awhile way back when.

Over these 47 years since we saw each other regularly on a daily basis, it has always been a treat to run into Gale.

Gale Vradenburg - what a neat guy, one of the truly nice, lovable people.

Why do people go away?

Micheal Porter - September 20, 2013 at 11:01 PM

JT

Gale has been a great friend since we met at WVC. Although he went east to WSU and I went west to U of W, he always called me his favorite Husky; and I called him my favorite Cougar.
Gale, Sally, Cathy and I shared many memories throughout the years.
We will greatly miss our good friend Gale, and we wish the best for our good friend Sally.
Jay and Cathy

Jay & Cathy Thomas - September 20, 2013 at 01:46 AM