



## Lyle William Rucker

August 20, 1941 - September 20, 2020

Lyle William Rucker

August 22, 1941 - September 20, 2020

East Wenatchee, WA

Lyle W. Rucker was born in Wayland, New York to Leslie G. and Florence Rucker on August 22nd, 1941. He passed away on September 20th, 2020 in East Wenatchee, Washington. He was 79.

Lyle attended Catholic school grades 1st through 8th and graduated from Wayland Central High School in New York in December of 1958. After graduation, he entered the United States Air Force and served proudly until retiring at the rank of Chief Master Sergeant (E9) in 1979. During his Air Force career he earned his Associates Degree and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, The Joint Service Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, and the Air Force Commendation medal with four oak leaf clusters.

He served tours at Fairchild AFB (WA), Vietnam, George AFB (CA), The Pentagon, Rhein Main AB (Germany). He also visited many countries including, England, Scotland, Spain, Greece, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Ethiopia as the Wings' Senior Listed Advisor. Lyle was eventually transferred

to NORAD Headquarters and then Air Defense Headquarters both in Colorado Springs.

In 1964, Lyle married his long-time companion Harriet B. (Green) Rucker. After his retirement from the Air Force, he moved to Wenatchee, WA and for 26 years worked for several trucking companies as either a general manager or a safety official. At one time, he also managed approximately 500 acres of apple and pear orchards. In 2005 he retired again and moved to Conconully, WA. He thoroughly enjoyed living in Conconully and being around his family.

He is survived by his children, Debbie (Jack) Anderson, Paul (Laura) Karlen, Raymond Rucker, Lynnette (Bryan) Heidenreich and Gary (Trudie) Rucker. He was also survived by many loving grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and his sister-in-law Lorriane (Bill) Lawrence. He was preceded in death by his beloved Harriet.

He cherished his time with his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. His smile and laugh will forever be remembered by those he knew and loved.

You are invited to view Lyle's Online Tribute at [www.HeritageMemorialChapel.com](http://www.HeritageMemorialChapel.com) to write a memory and/or make a donation. In lieu of flowers or service, donations can be made to the Wounded Warrior Project or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Arrangements are provided by Heritage Memorial Chapel.

# Tribute Wall

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“ I was Chief Rocker's direct supervisor when he was assigned to the NORAD Combat Operations Center inside Cheyenne Mountain in Colorado Springs. He was, hands down, the most efficient Senior NCO I ever met in my 20 years in the Air Force. As Executive Officer to the Commander of the NCOC, one of my duties was to ensure that everything was in top shape when the Commander-in-Chief (CinC) of NORAD held his staff meeting in the Mountain. Shortly after Lyle arrived and his nameplate was attached outside his office door. Soon thereafter, CINC NORAD (4-star General) hosted CINC SAC (Strategic Air Command and 4-star General) at the staff meeting in the Command Post. As they walked past Lyle's office door, the SAC General saw the nameplate and said to the NORAD General, "Lou, did you know that Lyle works here??" He didn't! They stopped and went in to welcome Lyle to the Mountain! I was walking directly behind the Generals when it happened. Chief Rocker told me later that he had worked for both of them in the Pentagon when they were Major Generals (2-Star Generals). I'm sorry to learn of Lyle's passing. No one was better at talking smack than he was! One day he took a great shot at me and I said, "Come on Lyle, lighten up!" His response to me was, "If I did, Maj, you wouldn't think I liked you!" Major Paul Tolleson, USAF Retired [tolleson@reagan.com](mailto:tolleson@reagan.com)

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**Paul Tolleson** - April 26, 2022 at 09:05 PM