



## Ralph Walter Andrews

August 30, 1942 - April 17, 2013

Ralph W. Andrews, 70, a 7 year Rock Island resident and former longtime East Wenatchee resident, passed away on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at Central Washington Hospital.

He was born on August 30, 1942 at Seattle to the late Walter Lee and Ethel Anita (McGuire) Andrews. He was raised in Bellevue and attended Highland Elementary and Bellevue Christian School. He then attended Bellevue High School and graduated with the class of 1960.

He met Sharon Jean Feilen while attending youth group at the Highland Covenant Church and they were later married on October 9, 1961 in Bellevue. Ralph went to work at Bel Air Chevrolet in Bellevue, starting as an apprentice. He began attending Seattle Community College Mechanic School, earning his Journeyman Mechanic Certification. He later advanced to Service Writer at Bel Air. They made a move to make their home in Woodinville. In 1963 he went to Corvair School in Tigard, OR and became a Corvair Repair Specialist. In 1964 they joined Tiger Mountain 4- Wheelers Jeep Club of Issaquah, WA. In 1965 they moved to Denton, Texas where he worked for Victor Equipment Company, a welding manufacturing and supply company. In 1969, they briefly moved to Pittsburg, PA before returning to work at Bel Air Chevrolet in Bellevue and making their home again in Woodinville. He accepted a job with Heath Engineering Company and they moved to Fort Collins, CO in 1971. Ralph was offered the opportunity to become partners with his brothers and buy out his parents business in Seattle which was Welding Equipment

Company, so they returned to Woodinville in 1973. In 1979 they joined the Wenatchee Mountain Masters Jeep Club after moving to East Wenatchee in 1978. Ralph, along with a friend purchased "Pioneer Metal Works, Inc", in Quincy. He became the sole owner in 1982 and continued operating until semi retiring in the late 1990's to go RVing. Ralph and Sharon began living full time in their Safari Motor Home in 1996. They travelled extensively throughout all of the continental United States, Canada and Alaska. Some of the traveling was due to the fact that Ralph worked part-time for Blue Ox, first as a NW area rep., then vending at motor home rallies and then going around the country doing training at Blue Ox dealerships. In 2006, they purchased property in Rock Island to park their motor home on.

He was a member of the Elks Lodge in Gig Harbor, WA and the Eagles Lodge, Aerie # 204 in Wenatchee, WA.

Ralph was the Executive Vice President of Safari International Motor Home Club and was a member of many other motor home clubs. He helped everyone he met with their motor homes, many people initially knew him by seeing his feet protruding from under a motor home. He designed, built and patented, "Tiger Trak" a track bar for Safari Motor Homes. Later he adapted Tiger Trak to gas model motor homes and supplying Blue Ox with this product to sell on the open market. He enjoyed one of the clubs projects, which was building homes for Habitat for Humanity.

He loved cars and was a great mechanic. His passion for cars led him to owning over 80 cars including his 1965 Chevrolet El Camino and a 1967 Chevrolet Camaro RS, which he wanted to restore.

He enjoyed the opportunity to have been chosen and work as a volunteer at Russo Steele Car Auctions in Scottsdale, AZ.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Sharon J. Andrews, Rock Island, WA; three children and their spouses, Toni (Fred) Martin, Rock Island, WA, Tammy (Roy) Nichols, Galloway, OH and Jim (Beth) Andrews, Ellensburg, WA; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Ken & Pam Andrews, Bellevue, WA, Frank & Diane Andrews, Dryden, WA; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Lori & Darrel

Dillon, Ferndale, WA, Ellen & Gale Putnam, Federal Way, WA; eight grandchildren, Ted and Sara Martin both of Rock Island, WA, Roy Nichols Jr., West Point, NE, Jeremy (Margeaux) Nichols, Galloway, OH, Lorena (Keith) Carlsgaard, Lemoore, CA, Kristen (Josh) Thompson, Sultan, WA, Kevin and Jake Andrews both of Ellensburg, WA; five great granddaughters, Cadence, Virginia and Skylar Carlsgaard, Alyia Nichols and Alyssa Thompson; three aunts and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

A Celebration Gathering will be held on Saturday, April 27th beginning at noon at their home in Rock Island, WA. In lieu of flowers, friends who wish may make memorial donations in his name to Hospice, 1020 N. Wenatchee, Ave., Wenatchee, WA 98801. You are invited to visit his tribute online and leave a memory at [www.HeritageMemorialChapel.com](http://www.HeritageMemorialChapel.com) . Arrangements are in the care of Heritage Memorial Chapel, East Wenatchee.

# Tribute Wall

JA

“ We sure are missing you, Ralphie. The other day Joe had a car question and said "Darnit, I can't call Ralph". Of course we miss more than your car knowledge; we miss your smiling face and presence. See you again, cousin.

---

**Joe & Jan Andrews** - May 15, 2013 at 12:02 PM

VB

“ *In Memory of a Great Friend*

*Ralph was a very special & knowledgeable man & he generously shared his many skills with everyone.*

*God must have needed his expertise for a special project that he took him from those who loved him.*

*He will be greatly missed.*

*With love,  
Vick & Carrole*

---

**Vick & Carrole Buchanan** - April 28, 2013 at 04:47 PM

EJ

“ *Andrews family: my heartfelt condolences. I will always remember how much fun Ralph seemed to have on our TM4W family jeeping trips. Somewhere there is a picture of ToTaJim stuck in a mud hole (at Elbe Hills I think), and Ralph was standing on the bumper with a sheepish look on his face waiting to be winched out. There was probably a jeep waiting for him when he got to heaven.*

---

**Erick Johnson** - April 27, 2013 at 02:00 AM

BW

“ I worked for Ralph for 5 years at Pioneer Metal Works as his bookkeeper. Ralph was very generous to me. He was fun to joke with, and would usually drop his head, shake it and walk out laughing. He had so many RV friends that would stop by the shop. I REALLY enjoyed meeting all of them, and they REALLY respected him for his knowledge of RV's. Ralph and Sharon were like family to me. They would come in and visit with me when they needed propane or diesel. The last time I talked to Ralph was in December when they told me he was sick again. I didn't realize that would be the last time I would see him. I can't believe he's gone, but he is resting peacefully now.

---

**Bonnie Worley** - April 23, 2013 at 04:04 PM

WP

“ I never met Ralph face to face. I got to know him after my wife and I bought a 1999 Safari. I was out of my depth , not having owned an RV before, much less a motorhome. I was researching online and came across Ralph's name and some information about my suspension system. I called the number and was surprised that he answered the phone personally. That began my warm friendship with a walking encyclopedia of Safari technical detail. My last conversation with Ralph was on a trip to Canada last September. My slideout would not move, I called Ralph on a Saturday and he patiently talked me through a detailed diagnostic process, describing what I was looking at and explaining exactly what I needed to do. Short story? The slide out has been working fine ever since. What a wonderful, helpful, unselfish individual. I will miss the occasional email and constant positive encouragement that Ralph always provided. Please accept mine and Carol's condolences in your loss of Ralph. God bless all of you.

---

**Wade Parrish** - April 23, 2013 at 10:23 AM

SK

“ Although we are fairly new to SI, We will always cherish the time we were able to spend with Ralph and Sharon. Our prayers are with the family.

---

**Stan & Georgann Kiefer** - April 22, 2013 at 08:42 PM

HA

“ What to say? It's been such a long and difficult time time for you and Ralph till now. And now there is at least the comfort of knowing that Ralph's suffering is finished and he is with his Lord and Savior Jesus. We are confident that you will continue to be strong and eventually find peace and satisfaction in going forward with your life. We continue to love you and pray for you and the family daily. Our love, Herb & Glo

---

**Herb & Gloria Andrews** - April 22, 2013 at 06:09 PM

BH

“ Ralph was a special person. He was either helping us our with our RV or encouraging our participation in SI. We had many good times and wish the family solace at this time.

---

**Bob and Patti Haynes** - April 21, 2013 at 07:11 PM

AB

“ We will miss you so very much our Friend and we will pray for you and your family. Love to you always Al and Kathy

---

**Albert and Kathy Bronzini** - April 21, 2013 at 02:10 PM

BB

“ Sharon. our prayers continue with you and your family as you move on to life without our very good friend Ralph. It was so very stressful as Ralph went through his last days but he is now in a much more serene place and with no more pain. Ralph's ready smile and always ready to help will not be forgotten.

---

**Bob & Peggy Beers** - April 21, 2013 at 12:44 AM

MH

“ Peace, healing and strength



---

**Michael and Kelli Hoel** - April 19, 2013 at 10:03 PM

MH

“ Dear Sharon and Family -  
We were so stunned and saddened to hear of Ralph's passing today. Although you do not know us personally, we had the pleasure of meeting Ralph and attending his Safari seminar at the Rally in Oregon several years ago. What a great guy with such a WEALTH of information, so eager to answer questions and help in any way he could. He touched a lot of people and will truly be missed. You are all in our thoughts and prayers - sending you strength and healing through this difficult time. Michael and Kelli

---

**Michael and Kelli Hoel** - April 19, 2013 at 09:58 PM