



## Richard Cartner Holmer

October 13, 1935 - October 17, 2015

It is with heavy hearts that we part with our beloved husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. Dick had been battling the demons of Parkinson's and Lewy-body dementia for several years and four days after his 80th birthday, he passed away with family by his side-now he is at peace. Dick was born on October 13, 1935 in Boston, MA to Walter and Blanche (Cartner) Holmer. He spent his early years on the sidelines at Boston College and Colby College "helping" his father coach football. When he was old enough Dick moved from the sideline to the playing field participating in football, basketball and baseball.

After graduating from Morton High School, Morton, IL in 1953 he entered the US Army serving in Korea. Upon discharge he enrolled in Western Illinois University in 1956. Here he met his bride, Colleen Sauder, and they had 57 wonderful years together.

Dick and Colleen's first home was in Morton, IL where daughters Julie and Jan were born. Son, Jeff, was born after a move to California where Dick worked for Lockheed Aircraft as a cost accountant and contract negotiator. In 1970 Dick moved his family to Cheney, WA to get out of the "rat race" and get his teaching degree at Eastern Washington State College. While in Cheney Dick bought a 4x4 rig he named the "Big Kahuna" and proceeded to spend most weekends with it loaded with his family and camping gear. It was on these excursions that Dick taught his 3 J's his silly songs about the Mississloppy River, the Thursday Meeting of the Friday Club and the Two

## Dead Boys Who Shot Each Other.

After earning his teaching certificate Dick went to work at Cashmere High School teaching accounting and business classes from 1972-1989. Dick loved teaching, coaching baseball, leading the Alpine club into the mountains for camping trips and mentoring his advisees in "Dick's Ducks". After retiring from teaching his next ventures included orchading, building a new home complete with handcrafted rock walls and managing Holmer Rentals. He led a busy life! Dick loved the outdoors and bow hunting. He could turn any conversation into a discussion about hunting. He was eager to mentor anyone interested in the sport, including many of his grandchildren. Dick's custom made arrows were highly treasured by everybody lucky enough to have a quiver full. Each fall Colleen accompanied him on elk hunts near John Day, Oregon. Then he was back in Washington to hunt with his long-time hunting partners.

Colleen and Dick spent 25 wonderful years wintering in AZ where Dick hunted javelin, played softball, tennis, pickleball and socialized with friends from the entire U.S. and Canada.

Senior softball was another passion of Dick's. He and Colleen traveled from Canada to AZ and many points in between playing in tournaments and making life-long friends. His last team in Wenatchee was particularly enjoyable for Dick because his daughter, Jan, played on the team with him. Dick's children would like to offer the following comments as a tribute to their very special Dad and Mom:

Jeff: The thing that amazes me the most about Dad is the lives he touched. Every week I'm approached by someone who was influenced by him.

Watching Dad over the last years has been living hell, I'm so relieved his fight is over. I will miss my friend very much. Thank you Mom for loving Dad the way you did, you made this bearable for us all. I love you dearly.

Jan: Dad's last few years were not what he would have wanted. It was with such grace and respect that Mom cared for Dad. There were moments of complete awareness like the time my daughter Whit said goodbye to him and he said "I love you today, I love you tomorrow, I love you forever", or he would

call Jeff his "good boy". We eventually had to place Dad at Blossom Creek where he kept the aides hopping. Even in his diminished state he was curious and would take things apart or tip them over to see how they worked. Thank you Blossom Creek for your patience and kindness towards Dad. I will forever cherish our time together on the softball field. I was one lucky gal to have you and mom as parents. Thank you Dad for loving me.

Julie: Among the most valuable things Dad taught me was that "if it's worth doing, it's worth doing right". These words have served me well as a teacher, coach, spouse and friend. Some of my best memories of Dad are the hours we spent when I was growing up watching football games on TV and then running outside to play catch during halftime. I am so thankful that Dad picked such a loving, caring, selfless woman to be his wife and our Mother...well done Dad.

Dick was preceded in death by his parents, Walt and Blanche Holmer. He is survived by his wife Colleen; daughters, Julie (Jim) Cannon of Entiat, Jan Holmer of Wenatchee and son, Jeff (Galina) Holmer of Cashmere; eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren; two brother in-laws, Tom Sauder, and Mike (Marce) Sauder of Tremont, Illinois.

There will be a Celebration of Dick's life on May 13th, at Walla Walla Point Park, Wenatchee. You are invited to view his online guestbook and leave memories or condolences at: [www.HeritageMemorialChapel.com](http://www.HeritageMemorialChapel.com) .

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

# Tribute Wall

RJ

“ Our thoughts and prayers from our family to all of the Great Holmer family...Dick was one of my all time favorite teacher and mentors...I have so many great memories from Alpine club to bookkeeping and baseball...What a great man! Love to you all!

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**Randy Johnston** - May 13, 2016 at 04:55 PM

BC

“ Colleen, Julie, Jan, and Jeff(whatever he may be) - I want you to know Dick was a great mentor for me and I'll miss him forever. He was, for me, the classic tough love kind of person who drove me hard in both in class and whenever we crossed paths out of class and he did it in a way that always engendered a positive response from me. That's pretty much how I knew him (respectful fear and trepidation) until he got me to hike the Crest Trail with him when I was probably 18. On that sojourn I didn't open up much.....being a teenager, an underling, and almost constantly miserably wet from 18 days in a row of rain...but he opened up and every day told me about his upbringing and great respect for his father, his hanging around with professional athletes from time to time, his struggles with silly work politics and love for caretaking his ranch; and, then on about day 7 or so he began talking about all of you in a way that was ultimately very facinating and instructive for me - when he talked about you he was devoid of judgement, competition, and winning...it was simply pure enjoyment and comfort repleat with simple and complete satisfaction which I had never observed in him during the classroom setting or Wenatchee River canoe trips he talked me into. I have sought to live my life the way he showed me how he wanted to live his and I've never regretted any of it.

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**Bill Christman** - November 17, 2015 at 01:12 AM

TS

“ *My grandpa was always bullet-proof. He was unstoppable, an ironman.*

*He was the person who taught me how to shoot a bow and to walk quietly through the woods. He instilled many qualities I value, and he didn't just talk the talk...he walked it too. He built a legacy, from teaching kids in his classroom to providing a wholesome, comfortable life for his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. It took an unbeatable disease to bring him down, and he even gave that a run for its money. I will remember him everytime I see the sun rise over the mountains he loved so dearly, and am comforted to know he is tromping through the mountains of Heaven looking down on us all.*

*I love you Gramps, and can't wait for the day I see you again.*

*With All my Heart*

*Your Grandson, Tanner*

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**Tanner Schwind** - October 28, 2015 at 07:42 PM

AW

“*Mr. Holmer was my advisor in high school and I cherished being a member of the Dick's Ducks. I even have a sweatshirt to this day and I still know right where it is, that I had made back in the 80's (mine has one part of the phrase, and Eric Chase's has/had the other). Mr. Holmer is the reason I became an accountant. I still love balancing the books of all of my clients and and am so thankful he was so fun and positive about those numbers and various ways of making money. Thinking of him definitely brings a smile to my face. His Accounting class was an elective back then and as I recall most who were on the college track didn't take it - but I'm so glad I did because it truly shaped in a positive way the remainder of my life (now 30 years later!). Mr. Head Duck, I for one hope you are keeping an eye on all of our financial books and are keeping those up in heaven all "quacked up" with your funny antics. They are truly blessed to have you, but down here you will be truly missed. My heart goes out to his family, especially Mrs. Holmer who was my favorite first grade teacher!*

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**Amy Wallick** - October 25, 2015 at 04:55 AM

DS

“ Dick was one of the finest teachers and coach that I had in School. 4 years of accounting with him taught me to not give up and dig for the answers. I am still using today what he taught us back in the 70's.

He was also one of the best baseball coaches I had. His passion for the game made us all better. Because of Dick, I played 4 years Military Softball, and many years of ball after the Military, some years 5 nights a week. Dick also stayed a good friend throughout the years. Always stopping to talk whenever I saw him. He always had some type of encouragement or good word, never anything bad to say.

My prayers go out to Colleen and the family. May you be blessed with all your memories of Dick.

Dave Stolte

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**David Stolte** - October 24, 2015 at 10:23 AM

JW

“ We are so sorry to hear of Dick's passing. Our sincere condolences to the entire Holmer family.

Every time I eat a hamburger I remember Dick saying to me that the hamburger is 'The great American meal!' And he smiled. I wish we had known him before he became ill.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

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**John and Barbara Williston** - October 24, 2015 at 02:02 AM

SK

“ We will always treasure the arrow Dick made. Rest in Peace, Dick.

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**Shirley and Ken** - October 23, 2015 at 05:52 PM

VP

“ My condolences go out to the Holmer family. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. I had Mr. Holmer for Accounting in 1977. Numbers were not my strong suit and he always had a way of making learning (subjects you were not fond of) fun. I remember him being upbeat and always positive. I learned from him that by having a positive attitude, you tackle just about anything. He will be missed.

Sincerely,  
Vera De Los Santos

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Vera De Los Santos Perez - October 23, 2015 at 04:18 PM

JH

“ Playing softball with my dad is one of the most rewarding things I have done. It wasn't really about the game but spending time with him. We sat together as we waited for our turns to bat. He always had a tidbit of advice as I went to the plate. We had many many hours of good visits and truly quality time together. I was so proud of him. And we always had mom keeping our stats and cheering us on. Thanks Dad for the memories.. I love you ~Jan

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Jan Holmer - October 22, 2015 at 04:55 PM