

Larry L. Charlton

Larry Lee Charlton, age 82, of Ellensburg, WA passed away peacefully in his sleep December 23, 2015 in Yakima, WA of complications from Alzheimer's disease.

He was born July 1, 1933 in Wenatchee, WA to Glenn Carmi Charlton and Naomi (nee McCoy) Charlton. Glenn worked for the US Forest Service and Larry spent his childhood days in Entiat, WA; Detroit, OR; and La Grande, OR.

After graduating from La Grande High School in 1951, Larry side-stepped the military draft by voluntarily joining the Air Force. The majority of his active duty was served in Greenland and California.

Larry joined his parents who had moved to the family homestead in Ellensburg, WA. He continued his education at Washington State University and graduated in 1958 with a degree in Land Management. One of his first jobs was working at Boeing in Renton, WA. This employment lasted only a few months.

Having been introduced by mutual friends, Larry married Marilyn Scheda in August 1959. His employment with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources took them to Sultan, WA where they lived for one year. A job with the City of Ellensburg allowed him to live closer to and assist his widowed mother Naomi. In 1966 Larry returned to the Department of Natural Resources and was eventually promoted to a District Land Manager for Central Washington. He also worked with summer fire crews which he loved the most of all. He was an air-boss for many of the large forest fires in the Central Washington region. He went into business for himself after his retirement in 1989 from the Department of Natural Resources. His work entailed setting up timber sales for Boise Cascade, and private timberland owners. Later he was joined by a fellow DNR retiree adding the development of gravel pits. They were known as Sticks and Stones.

Larry was a member of the Ellensburg Presbyterian Church. Larry is survived by his beloved wife of 56 years, Marilyn. Two sons and their families: Ken, Kathi (nee Koester) and Keira Charlton; Dan, Michelle (nee Carter), Akaisha and Karina Charlton. One daughter and her family: Tanya, Daryl and Danya Nelson. He worked hard at his job with the state and also worked on the family homestead raising beef cattle, producing hay to feed and teaching his family how to work hard and be responsible.

Larry loved people and devoted his life to volunteer work. He was a member of the Ellensburg Rodeo Posse for over 30 years, being one of the founding organizers for the Junior Rodeo held each year for the youth of Kittitas Valley. He also served as a Kittitas County Fair Board Director and held a position on the Kittitas County Planning Board. He was a member of the Kittitas County Cattlemen and was named Cattleman of the Year in 2011.

Larry's passion was kids and animals. He loved his special horses – usually tamed Mustangs - and any kid that would look at him. He loved the land, life's adventures, laughing and he loved to make others laugh.

A memorial celebration of life is planned for a later date.

Family suggest memorial contributions be made to The Ellensburg Rodeo Mounted Posse scholarship fund, P.O. Box 191; Hospice or charity of choice.

