



Charles Joseph Brien

September 29, 1935 - March 22, 2019

Charles J. Brien (Charlie) of Rainier, Oregon passed away at Community Home Health and Hospice on March 22, 2019 at the age of 83 with his wife Laurie and loyal companion Buddy by his side. Charles was born September 29, 1935 to Albert and Josephine Brien in Belcourt, North Dakota. He and his three brothers Lloyd, Roy and Jim were raised in the Dakota's and grew up on the Turtle Mountain (Chippewa) Indian Reservation. Early in life things were hard and he worked many jobs to support his family, most fun was a band he started with his brothers that often went long into the night. Always a music lover, he taught himself how to play guitar as well as harmonica, piano, accordion and eventually banjo! His talent was amazing. After graduating from Fort Totten Indian School he attended a few college courses but the need to support himself and a family was most important in those days. As a young adult Charles worked at Homestake Gold Mine in Lead, South Dakota. He met his first wife Phyllis Lane and they married in 1956. In 1960 he brought his wife and daughter's to Oregon to settle eventually in Rainier, where he remained a lifelong resident. Always a hard worker, after moving to Oregon he eventually landed a job with Weyerhaeuser in Longview, Washington as a log scaler. He and Phyllis were married for 22 years. After living on his own for a while he met Laura M. Jordan (Laurie) in 1982 and they married in 1987. In April of 1998 Charles retired after 30 years with Weyerhaeuser.

Charles owned many horses, cats and dogs over the years. His beloved dogs went everywhere with him except hunting. He loved being in the great outdoors, hunting is what he lived for and his favorite was his annual elk hunting trip, horse packing into the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness of Idaho. He taught his stepson Rob to hunt and fish and together they hunted and fished the Great Northwest. Along with his amazing music abilities, his hunting prowess, he was a very skilled artist. He made everything from porcupine quill jewelry to chainsaw sculptures. His work can still be found in homes around the Rainier area.

He leaves behind his wife of 32 years Laurie Brien, his stepdaughter SueAnn Hardesty Gonis and husband Andy Gonis, daughter Charlotte Brien Jones and husband Mark Jones, daughter Monica Brien Binns and husband Will Binns and a stepson Robert E. Green Jr.. His previous wife of 22 years, Phyllis Lane Brien, 6 grandchildren and 6 great-

grandchildren, many nieces, nephews, cousins and close friends. He was preceded in death by his parents Albert and Josephine Brien and his brothers Lloyd, Roy and Jim. A memorial service will be held September 14, 2019 at 1:00 PM at Columbia Funeral Home in St. Helens, Oregon.

Events

SEP **Memorial Service** 01:00PM

14

Columbia Funeral Home

681 Columbia Blvd., St. Helens, OR, US, 97051

Comments



“ Laurie Brien lit a candle in memory of Charles Joseph Brien



Laurie Brien - September 22, 2019 at 01:53 PM



“ I knew him as my Grandpa. Over the years we camped, fished, hunted, shared holidays, spent summers together, and even attended Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation banquets together. He was always thriving in the outdoors and taught me the same. Some of my fondest memories are fishing salmon on the Columbia River and all the camping stories we created together in our adventures. I will share one now: Grandpa, Laurie, Rob and I headed out for a 4 day camping weekend towards central Oregon. Rob and I rode in the camper on the back of the truck while Grandpa, Laurie and the dogs rode in the cab of the truck. Rob and I were just teenagers but Chinese food made me hash the whole road trip. When we finally pulled into camp Grandpa opened the camper door and made a disgusted face! He then asked Rob and I “who kicked over the lantern?” He was certain the gas he was smelling was petroleum based on not Chinese food aftermath!! We all shared in laughs throughout the trip and the years following as storytelling and shared of adventures became a norm.

adam Jones - September 14, 2019 at 03:19 PM



“ 43 files added to the album LifeTributes



Columbia Funeral Home - September 11, 2019 at 01:55 PM



“ Grandpa, you are missed. Your spirit was in the stories you'd tell, your jokes, your endless knowledge of the outdoors. Thank you for my heritage and for your toughness. Love Always, Punkin'

Heather Hickey - September 11, 2019 at 01:47 PM



“ My dad loved his dogs so much. This was his latest baby that was at his side when he passed on. There are many beloved pets as well as his brothers with him now.



Charlotte - September 11, 2019 at 12:58 PM



“ Charlie, or Dad to me was always happy whenever my family and I came home from wherever we were stationed at the time. He was so proud of my husband Mark and his army career. He always wanted to know what our latest adventures were when we visited. I loved that. His love of adventuring this world, whether it was music, hunting, or learning a new interest gave me the same spirit and I think it enriched my life exponentially. It continues to grow with his entire family. I have so much to thank him for. But being in-afraid to try new things is a true gift from my dad.
Love ya dad and always will,
Charlotte

Charlotte - September 11, 2019 at 11:12 AM