



Robert Luepke

August 26, 1933 - May 3, 2020

Robert “Crazy Bob” Arthur Luepke passed away on May 3, 2020. He was born on August 26, 1933 and raised in Yakima, Washington by his parents, Ernest Albert Luepke and Mary (Manda) Luepke. When Bob graduated from high school, he joined the United States Air Force and proudly served our country for 20 years.

While stationed in Fairbanks, Alaska, he met Johnnie Lou Godwin and they married in November 1954. While in Alaska they had their first child, Donna Kay. After Alaska they moved to Georgia, Texas, Michigan, Colorado, Iceland, and North Dakota while Bob served in the Air Force. Susan Denise was born in Georgia, and sons David Michael and Patrick Allen were both born in Texas.

While stationed in Minot, ND, Bob attended Minot State University and earned his teaching degree. He also hosted fish fries in ND for the young airmen living in the barracks on base and took some of them fishing. He regularly enjoyed hunting and fishing, including ice fishing in North Dakota.

Retiring from the Air Force in 1971, Bob and his family moved to Yakima, Washington, and took over the Luepke family orchard. He also raised cattle and swine, and eventually started a Honeybee business called Crazy Bob’s Honey.

In 1985, Bob and Claudia began their beekeeping adventure. They traveled to California in the winter for almond pollination, they stayed local in Yakima in the spring for fruit pollination, and during the summer they traveled to the Forest Service lands for honey. During this time, he continued to raise apples and pears full time.

During holidays, Bob’s extended family would all get together at either Yakima, Hermiston, Zillah, or Wenatchee to celebrate the special days together. Food was plentiful, along with card games, laughter, and packed houses!

Bob had many friends at the Farmer’s Table in Ahtanum at the Ranch House, Peggy’s in Wiley City, and at Waffles at Meadowbrook. Here they enjoyed great conversation every time they gathered.

Bob enjoyed to the fullest his two trips to Australia. He had wanted to travel there since the young age of 7 years old. The first trip was with Chuck Davis and the second trip was with Chuck and a new travel companion, Russ Bohannon.

Bob is survived by companion of 35 years Claudia Richardson, his daughters, Donna Kay

(David) Green and Susan Denise Tillett as well as Claudia's daughters Vicki (Kevin) Hoyt and Chris (Dave) Lynde, and one son, Patrick Allen Luepke, sisters Mary Ann Severson and Janet Severson, along with grandchildren Danica, Scott, Becky, Sherissa, Michael, Samantha, Katy, Brock, and Megan, seven great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Bob is preceded in death by ex-wife Johnnie Lou (Godwin) Luepke, one son, David Michael, his parents Ernie and Mary, his sister Betty Jean Burns, and brothers-in-laws Bob Severson, Gordie Severson, and Don Burns.

Comments



“ Dear Claudia,
Novelyn and I are so sad to have lost our good friend, Bob. We will really miss the coffee/tea get-togethers at Waffles. Bob and I had many good conversations and shared our USAF memories, also solved most of the world's problems - our opinions, of course!

Take care,
Roy and Novelyn

Roy & Novelyn Brandt - May 19, 2020 at 01:46 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. I never really new Bob because he was older and left to be in the service before I was old enough to get to know him. I spent a lot of time with uncle Ernie picking fruit to earn money but Bob was all ready gone. The Manda family was never really close so was hard to keep in touch. Aunt Betty use to keep me to up to date but after her passing I had no way of knowing anything about the family. Please let Mary Ann and Janet know they are in my thoughts and prayers. Cousin Judi Manda Gattis.

Judi Gattis - May 19, 2020 at 11:17 AM



“ Suzie, Donna and "Uncle" Pat, I was so sorry to hear about your dad's passing. I have some fond memories of the family farm when Suzie and I were in high school but never saw your dad too much, except at the Ranch House with the rest of the "old farmers." I do remember he let us pick apples once to earn money to go to the fair, mostly I think he just gave us some money to get us out of his hair...Keith and I weren't good at picking. Know that I'm thinking about you 3 little "orphans" and love you all, especially you Suzie. Love to our little "Nica" too.

Elaine Lyon - May 18, 2020 at 09:37 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Valley Hills Funeral Home & Crematory - May 15, 2020 at 04:41 PM