



James "Duke" William Morton

November 20, 1935 - March 26, 2016

James William "Duke" Morton passed away on March 26, 2016 at his residence in Redmond, Oregon. He was 80 years old.

Duke was born on November 20, 1935 in Berkeley, CA. Duke was the son of James and Louise Morton, step-son of Leroy Rails. Duke grew up in Salyer, CA (Trinity County) and spent summers in Somes Bar with his grandparents, Pop and Bessie Tripp. Duke moved to San Francisco, where he worked as a maintenance man. After retiring, Duke moved to Happy Camp. While living in Happy Camp, Duke enjoyed gardening and tending to his koi pond. Duke was a movie buff and had 4,000+ DVD's. Not only was he a movie buff, Duke was also a music buff. He also enjoyed poker, but especially loved sharing stories about family and his Karuk roots. In 2013, Duke lived in Fairfield, CA with his daughter, Terry, then in 2014 he lived in Redmond, Or with his daughter, Debbie.

Duke is survived by five children, Debbie Steadman, Terry Sammartino, James W. Morton, "Beau" Derek Morton and Chad Kyle Morton; a brother, Chuck Morton of French Gulch, CA, a brother, Walter Morton of Hoopa, a sister, Delma Powell of Burnt Ranch, CA; nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Duke was preceded in death earlier this year by his wife, Genevieve Morton, and a son, Mitchell Morton.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2016 at 1:00 PM at the Karuk Community Center in Orleans. Interment will follow at the Oak Bottom Cemetery in Somes Bar.

Cemetery Details

Oak Bottom Cemetery

Somes Bar, CA 95568

Previous Events

Funeral Service

APR 9. 1:00 PM (PT)

Karuk Tribal Community Center
Highway 96
Orleans, CA 95556