



## Wallace Sherman Orcutt

December 19, 1939 - March 10, 2024

It is with great sorrow to announce that Wallace Sherman Orcutt, 84, a longtime resident of La Grande, Oregon and enrolled tribal member for the Karuk Tribe of California passed away on March 10, 2024 in Yreka, California. Wally was born on December 19, 1939 in Yreka to Alvin Orcutt Sr. and Bessie Orcutt (Bennett) of Forks of Salmon, CA. He was raised in Forks of Salmon. Wally graduated from Happy Camp High School in 1958, then joined the United States Air Force where he became an Air Force Police Officer and served honorably for 4 years.

In 1962, Wally married the love of his life Wanda Lee Johnson in Happy Camp, California where they had five children, three of which were Wallace's stepchildren whom he raised as his own: Brenda Stroud Flowers, Clinton Alvis Stroud, Sherri Lynn Stroud Patereau, Melody Faith Orcutt Hayden and Stephanie Faye Orcutt.

After the wedding, Wally went to work as a surveyor for the United States Forest Service and attended trade school and held several interesting positions which include McCullough Corporation in Southern California as a computer programmer and security officer. He then relocated his family to La Grande, Oregon where he was a longtime resident and respected by the community. Wally started his long-held career for the Union Pacific Railroad in La Grande, beginning on the maintenance of way crew called "The Gang" and worked his way up to conductor where he retired after 25 years. Wally enjoyed his career with the Union Pacific Railroad and would often share stories of his

experiences. He was an inspiration to all and always made everyone laugh with his one-liners and jokes.

In his free time, Wally enjoyed camping in Sumpter, Oregon, where his whole family and close friends gathered around a big bonfire for memorial weekend celebrations every year. Wally enjoyed cutting down trees for the fire with his family and also enjoyed watching his grandkids ride their bikes and ATV's.

Another favorite activity was going mushroom hunting with his wife and many grandchildren along with their dogs. There wasn't a place that did not include his beloved German Shepherds. His canine companions were near and dear to him, to name a few: Liz, Tippa, Suzie, Ishpook, Leo, Kemesch are walking alongside with him now.

In his formative years he liked to hunt deer, elk and enjoyed fishing with his family. Wally had many other hobbies, most memorable are fixing tv's and radios for the community and for the family but most importantly, he enjoyed dancing to Elvis Presley with his beautiful wife, Wanda.

Wally is preceded in death by his parents, Alvin Orcutt Sr., Bessie Orcutt (Bennett) and his brother, Butch Orcutt (Alvin Orcutt Jr.), his sisters, Arlene Stewart and Gloria Turley and his son "Bubba" Clinton Stroud and great-great grandchild, Adalia Rodriguez. He is survived by his wife, Wanda Orcutt and daughters Brenda Flowers, Sherri Patereau, Melody Hayden and Stephanie Orcutt.

Wally leaves behind many nieces and nephews and numerous grandchildren which include: Jered Huff, Dena Jones, Dale Flowers, Kadon Flowers, Ashlynn Stroud, Sheena Carroll, Alex Carroll, Leah Patereau, Stephanie Trumbull, Micheal Hayden, Jacob Kuperus, Clinton Kuperus, Angelica Ritter-Nothiger, David Ritter, Kara Mendenhall; and great grandchildren to include Lakoda Huff, Kenai Huff, Lillian Doolittle, Mya Doolittle, Elijah Trumbull, Roman Trumbull, Miakoda Trumbull, Kristina Hayden, Kaetlyn Hayden, Kaiden Hayden, Aniyah Hayden, James Hayden, Chenoa Rodriguez, Etchemin Ritter, Kotori Ritter, Riken Ritter, Codyn Krajewski, Carli Ritter and great-great grandchild Axiel Rodriguez.

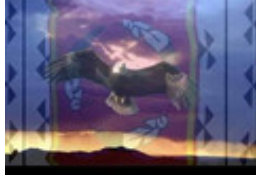
Wally left us all with lasting memories and full hearts. He was smart, funny, kind and loved his family with all of his heart. We will never have to wonder what a life well-lived looks like because that is exactly what he showed us. Wally's legacy lives on through the love and memories shared by his family and friends. His jokes, his laughter, and the lessons he imparted remain with us, guiding us to take care of each other, to be strong, and to maintain our sense of humor through life's challenges.

Those who knew Wally are invited to a celebration of life to be held on May 24th, 2024 at 10:00 AM at the Calvary Chapel of La Grande, 1433 Jefferson Avenue, La Grande, Oregon 97850. Afterwards family and friends are welcome to join us the at Riverside Pavilion, 3501 N Spruce St. La Grande to share in fond memories of Wally.

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Obituary Wall*



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**Girdner Funeral Chapel** - April 27 at 03:43 PM

MH

“ *What I have to share of Wallace leaves the boundary of written word and enters to non-causal reality like there are not words for love. There are not words to cover everything concerning my friend and my father-in-law.*

*When I wanted to date his daughter, he was at a kitchen table and he appeared like the old clinging on the original Star Trek with kind of a turned up brow and he said sit down boy it was a scrabble game. He was looking at. Nobody was sitting at the kitchen table and I said I'm not interested in that; and I quote verbatim what he said next. He stated you want to date my daughter don't you? I said yes and he replied and sit down boy so I had to play him scrabble for 10 years before I could even beat him and then I could only beat him if he drank too much Budweiser, during which time he helped me get into electricity and act like a father has my father died when I was young, he used to say one wire at a time Mike when we cut wood wood in the forest, he'd state with a little laugh "Hum... strong back weak mind".*

*Wallace was my friend.*

*I got A's and sociology in college and I flunk psychology, but I began to note that Wallace would do selfless actions without without any ego whatsoever because he was so used to driving as an engineer and a and a back when they had the caboose on the train, he would watch the train to the site and back. As he was used to staying up LONG hours. so I'll get to the point here because of this when I called him and it had driven 275 miles from his house on the grand towards Portland I ended up breaking down in 1984 Corvette the transmission is gone out. (Selflessly) Wallace drove 275 miles pick me up only 25 miles from Portland took me home and drove himself back in a single action.*

*The second selfless act was when I broke down with my brother Eric near the same spot in the Dalles Wallace Orcutt drove his car to pick us up again and selflessly drove me to my place in Portland and Eric drove himself back. Do you understand the definition of*

*actions which caused inspiration that build and manifest into aspiration you have to understand the value, integrity, and humility of making each act that you do count, this is Wallace my friend. I wanted to come up to Legrand to cut Wallace and want some firewood, but I'm still not able to get away the things of life that overwhelm all of us happen to all of us. I have good memories of Wallace and he lives on through all of us that having their hearts, I miss you Wallace*

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**michael hayden** - May 05, 2024 at 12:00 AM

SO

“ Thank you Barb & Gary, we've had a lot of good times over the years. ❤️

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**Stephanie Orcutt** - April 02, 2024 at 12:00 AM

SO

“ Thank you. ❤️ ☐

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**Stephanie Orcutt** - April 02, 2024 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ All you need to be a man is license to get to work, and duck tape to fix things that go wrong!

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**Michael Hayden** - April 02, 2024 at 12:00 AM

LK

“ Condolences to his family! He was a good man.

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**Linda Keno** - April 01, 2024 at 12:00 AM

IW

“ Condolences to the family 🙏🙏🙏

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**Ina Weigel** - April 01, 2024 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ *My sincere condolences and prayers to you and the family 🙏🙏*



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**Marsha Farley** - April 01, 2024 at 12:00 AM



AO



“ *We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Girdner Funeral Chapel*

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**A Memorial Tree was planted for Wallace Sherman Orcutt** - April 01, 2024 at 12:00 AM

BS



“ We send our deepest condolences to Wanda, Melody & Family's.   
We're all going to miss Wally and of course, his sense of humor.  
I can picture Wanda laughing & how happy they always were  
together  & their kindness & hospitality was endless & whenever  
we'd need to stay overnight after staying up late hours, they always  
welcomed us.


We'd play scrabble & bless your heart Wanda, for always having the  
patients to put up with us  And Melody would roll her eyes at  
some of her Dad's corny jokes & then we'd all bust up laughing.   
We've had many fun visits over the years, they'd travel to see their  
children & grandchildren & take time to see us too, when we were  
following the Railroad life in our RV's from jobsite to jobsite & if we'd  
happen to end up in the same area where Melody lived, & later  
where Stephanie too had lived, up in the McCall/Donnelly, Idaho  
area. And, it was there when they blessed us with the sweetest  
gifts, besides "Their Presence" & "Melody" her friendship, . were 2  
Beautiful German Shepherds that changed our lives forever.

1st came a brother & then his sister from a 2nd litter, Parents:  
Ishpook & Koston-(sp?)

Shilo lived 10 yrs & Shasta lived 11yrs. They were like our own  
children 

I could go on & on, but


Please know we love your family & we pray your grief will be  
lessened somehow.  

I believe a little bit of Wally will live on within all of our hearts,  
especially everytime we think of him. 

He was definitely one of a kind!

Love always,

Gary & Barb

PS. (I apologize for trying to post memories on the tree card, where  
condolences belonged. No wonder I couldn't fit it in, it only had 150  
characters to type & I had more to say.) 

Sorry about that. 

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Barbara Saunders - April 01, 2024 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ Thanks for Everything! You & Wanda trusted us to care for Shilo&Shasta. I wish we could've had more visits & scrabble games. You'll be dearly missed!

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**Gary & Barb** - April 01, 2024 at 12:00 AM