



Woody Orion Watson

November 25, 1975 - May 3, 2020

Woody was born in a tiny miners cabin, 3 miles up KnowNothing Creek, located in the township of Forks of Salmon, to Wally and Edna Watson.

Woody grew up on the Rivers, first on KnowNothing Creek and the Salmon River at the Forks, with a group of Salmon River boys, led by his brother, Rick Glascoe, and Rick's good friend Tim Murray and his little brother who was Woody's lifetime friend, Will Harling, and lifetime friend Toz Soto, who also lived on KnowNothing Creek. Other Salmon river boys he played with were little Sam George and also Orion Marley. A few years later they would all be joined by Slate Boykin . They all swam and played and fished in the creeks and the Salmon River.

When he was 3 and ½ years old , in 1979, the family moved to McKinleyville so that Edna could complete her teaching credential at Humboldt State Univ. Woody attended HSU 's preschool and would later graduate from HSU in the late 90's with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Technology (building trades). While living in McKinleyville he attended McKinleyville Middle School which had a wonderful Kindergarten class with the very musical Sandy Hatch as his teacher. The next year he attended Equinox school in Arcata, where his mother washed the lunch dishes every day in exchange for his tuition, and Woody became a very strong student academically. He met a lifelong friend, Forest Berg.

In 1982, Woody's father Wally was a fishing guide for the Somes Bar Guide Service, owned and operated by the Throgmorton Brothers. During that year Woody's mom graduated and began her teaching career at Junction School in Somes Bar, and Woody started school there in 2nd grade, with Steve Robinson as his first teacher there. This opened the door to an incredible life, living in the Klamath River watershed, where Woody and his father Wally, his uncle Tim, and Woody's brother Rick, and Woody's friends, all became one with the creeks, the 2 incredible Rivers, the Salmon and the Klamath, and the surrounding mountains. They grew up fishing, hunting, gold panning, backpacking in the wilderness, lots of swimming, and learning to navigate the Rivers. Woody grew up with the gang from Patterson Ranch, Robinsons, Robisons and Lieby, Brickell and Post kids, Slate Boykin, and Toz Soto and his little brother Orbie Pullen,, and many local Karuk kids (Supers, Whites and Conrads), where he learned some of the old ways, lots of new ways, and customs. He and his brother felt themselves to be part of a larger community and tribe and they have remained very connected to the Indian community. Woody and Rick became excellent river guides before they completed high school, taking both rafting and fishing customers and friends and family on either fishing or Rafting Trips. Woody especially loved taking his kids on the River.

When he was in high school in Happy Camp, Woody met the love of his life, Alicia Whitman, and they became high school sweethearts. After high school, they both received higher education, she at Shasta Beauty College in Redding and Woody at HSU in Arcata. They went on to start a family together and their first child, Timothy John Watson, was born in 2003. In the same year, Woody's paternal grandfather died, Jerry Watson, who owned a house in Sebastapol. Woody was offered a good job with a building contractor in Sebastapol, so the young family moved to Jerry Watson's house and Woody began his career as a builder. While there, their son Virusur, was born in

2004, and even though they had a beautiful house and Woody had a good job, both Woody and Alicia longed for the River, and missed their family and friends terribly, especially Alicia, because her mother, Sharon Whitman, had started battling ovarian cancer.

They returned to the River in 2006 . This began the “roller coaster” phase of their lives, with a mixture of ups and downs, good and bad. Alicia opened her own beauty shop, and Woody was living the dream as a river guide and carpenter. Their daughter Patty was born in July of 2011. However, other forces were at play that threw the family seriously off track , and the family fell apart for a number of years. But no matter what happened, Woody always charmed people with his smile, and his humor. Woody was always Mr. Social.

More recently, the kids are living with Alicia in a wonderful 5 bedroom tribal house in Happy Camp, and Woody was visiting regularly and everything seemed to be improving. Woody’s unexpected death , along with Covid-19, has thrown things off track for now. Hopefully things will get better soon.

Woody was predeceased by both sets of grandparents, and his Uncle, Tim Mark Watson, and his Aunt Katharine. His paternal grandparents were Jerry Albert Watson and Patricia Murphy Watson, both from San Francisco. His maternal grandparents were Edward Paul Scherzer and Eleanor Hansford Snodgrass Scherzer, both from Washington D. C. His Uncle Tim was Wally’s younger brother, who died in ’83 when his truck went off the KnowNothing Creek Road. Aunt Katharine was Edna’s sister, who died about 5 years ago in Petaluma.

Woody is survived by both of his parents, Wally and Edna Watson, his brother, Rick Glascoe and his children, and Woody’s children , sons Timothy John Watson (16) and Virusur Orion Watson(15) , daughter Patricia Ann Watson (8)

and stepdaughter Layla Aubrey Whitman (6), along with his children's mother, Alicia Ann Whitman. He is also survived by nieces Angelica Garrison, Brandy Linder, and Eva May Glascoe and nephew Buck Wayne Glascoe, and grandnephews Dylan Martin and Hudson Hokanson. He also has 5 aunts on the east coast, Edna's sisters :Terri, Brenda, Genie, Jackie and Jill, and all of their children who are his cousins, one of whom he knew because that one lived at Woody's house for 1 year, Dennis Scherzer, Aunt Kathy's son. He is also survived by Wayne Glascoe , a dear uncle , and his family, wife Patricia and grandson Parrish Buckley, as well as close friends Zak Lieby, Reid Patterson, Amber Arand Nancy Wojcik.

Woody died at his home in Somes Bar, during sleep, in the wee hours of Sunday May 3rd, 2020, apparently from complications of an intestinal obstruction for which he went to Mad River Hospital in Arcata on Tuesday, April 28, but was sent home without enough help to resolve his stomach problem. His autopsy, completed on May 6, revealed that he died from severe gastro-intestinal bleeding.

Due to restrictions on social gatherings due to the Coronavirus, a memorial gathering will be scheduled at a later date, when people can get together a little more freely.

Woody will always be remembered for his smile and his friendly nature. As a man of the Rivers and Mountains, he was an expert River guide and boatman, who loved fishing, and hunting and hiking the wilderness areas, and loved having adventures with his children, like kayaking Clear Creek with his boys and his friend Zak Lieby, or overnight raft trips with his family. But most of all , he will be remembered for his deep love of his children, which was the driving force of his life. He lived for them.

Tribute Wall

SG

“Woody I already miss you brother! I first Met Woody when we were freshmen in high school! I have so many memories with Woody! I litterely had just talked to you in early March and we were talking about getting together with your boys and my boys and talking about the good ole days and all the crazy shit we used to do, and holy shit we did some crazy shit. My best memory of Woody was he really wanted to take us bro’s rafting down the Klamath. I said Bro “I can’t swim” lol woody laughed like he always did but then he said serious as he can get “Gator I got you ride in my boat” we were just 18 years old well I trusted him and away we went down the river! We come to Rattlesnake rapids I was like woody let me out of the boat, again Woody says I got you Gator just paddle your ass off lol! Ok I survived and got thru it! I was so happy woody said told you Gator I got you I would never let anything happen to you! I trusted him with my life and I would do it all over again brother! I miss you! We lost an amazing friend who would have given the shirt off his back! Until we meet again brother rest easy .

steve gates - May 26, 2020 at 02:11 AM

EW

Steven I'm so glad you guys reconnected. He loved you like a brother...from Edna

edna watson - May 29, 2020 at 03:49 AM



“ I remember Jesse Jones and Woody at the bus stop waiting to get to school. One day I noticed Woody had his baseball hat on sideways. I asked him why are you wearing your hat to the side like that Woody? He replied, because the front is a little dirty. I was floating down the Klamath a bunch of years later and to my surprise there's Woody fishing. I pulled over to shoot the bull with him for a bit. I brought up the fact that Woody was the one that started the fad of wearing a baseball hat sideways and we had a good laugh. We will miss ya Woody.
Ted and Tera Jones

Tera Jones - May 23, 2020 at 08:51 AM

ST

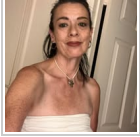
“ I tried to brace myself in the raft as Woody calmly gave instructions behind me. We were rushing toward Dragon's tooth and it looked for all the world like we were going to be sucked right into it. Just as the boat glanced the massive rock and tipped sideways, it lurched and I was pitched out. I felt the current sucking me under the boat as I desperately tried to hold on. Suddenly an arm grabbed my life jacket. Then the current slowed, and somehow we had made it. I was filled with wonder that I had survived.....thanks to Woody's lightning- quick thinking and strong steady grasp. I still don't understand how he managed to keep me afloat and maneuver the raft to safety at the same time. Must have been all the years our boys had spent all day, every day, learning from the river. Thank you, Woody. You will live on in our hearts. Sending much love to the family.

Sue Terence - May 22, 2020 at 11:36 AM

EW

Love that story

edna watson - May 23, 2020 at 12:12 AM



“ I will never forgot the first time i met Woody Watson he was a new freshman at Happy Camp High , myself a sophomore we both rode Mrs. Sutcliffe's bus myself getting dropped off on Curley Jack and then Woody heading downriver , Woody was running to catch the bus with his arms full of Conan the barbarian comic books he dropped them all over the steps and was somewhat embarrassed so he booked it to the back of the bus and sit next to Bobby Thornsberry and Toz , i gave him a friendly smile . Alicia Whitman and myself have been friends since birth as our Mothers were dear friends . I love Alicia like a Sister she has been the best friend a girl could ask for . When i first found out about Woody and Alicia dating , i am not going to lie , i was thinking how does she go from David Smith to this short freshman kid from down river " LOL " . And just like Edna mentioned in the obituary it didn't take Woody but a hot second to win me over with his million dollar smile and personality , at that begun a 33 year friendship . I was so excited when there first born Timmy John was born he was a little doppelganger of his Father , what a sweet perfect baby boy who has grown into a wonderful young Man , just over year later i got a phone call from Alicia saying boy #2 was here Virusuir Orion who shares the same middle name as Dad . " Lil Bear " was and still is such a sweet old soul , i couldn't be prouder , and then they got there baby girl Patricia Ann who was named after Alicia's beautiful Grandma Patty and Patty is very strong and beautiful just like her Grandma with those big brown doe eyes . Thank You Woody & Alicia for my Nephew's and Niece's , and Layla Rose the youngest and Alicia's mini me , need i say more she is beautiful and that personality . I love them with all my heart , as i love you Woody . You will forever be that glisten on the Klamath River , now go rest high on that mountain Woodrow Orion ... love your crazy friend Nobe's I am so deeply sorry for your loss Edna , Wally , Alicia , Timothy , Virusuir , Patty and Layla as well as Rick , Angelica , Buck Wayne , Eva Mae and many others who greatly loved Woody and will miss him like crazy . i have comfort in knowing every time i look at the kids i will see Woody .

Noblelee Cook - May 19, 2020 at 01:02 AM

EW

Noblelee, I loved those memories you shared.

Edna Watson - May 19, 2020 at 06:26 PM

SP

“ *This obituary makes me cry so much and describes Woody and his life perfectly. I was one of the Patterson gang of which he was pretty much considered family. I can remember endless, blending days of all of us ranch kids, along with the Gibbons girls, Orbie Pullen, and Zak Lieby being pretty inseparable and roaming the woods, hanging out in the “playhouse”, river days in summer and just doing all the things kids/young teens do. I hadn’t been close to him in many years but still on the random occasion our paths would cross , he was always the same, jovial guy with a big smile and something funny to say. He also shared the same birthday as my daughter. He will be missed. Edna, Wally, and family. I’m so sorry for your loss. My love and condolences to you all. ❤️*

Sarah Post - May 18, 2020 at 06:00 PM

ZL

“ *2 files added to the album River time with Alicia and the boys*



Zak Lieby - May 18, 2020 at 03:20 PM

SC

“ I am so sorry for this tragic lose Edna. My heart goes out to you and your family. I lost my oldest son in February. Its such a horrible lose. Try to remember all the good things about him. My prayers are with you. Stella

Stella Clark - May 18, 2020 at 12:53 PM

 Judy Adams

Wally, I am so sorry to hear about Woody's death. I know it is a big loss for you and the entire family. I will be keeping all of you in prayer. Judy Yawman-Adams

Judy Adams - May 24, 2020 at 02:45 AM