



Benton "Ben" Davis

August 16, 1946 - January 3, 2015

Benton "Ben" Jon Davis, 68, of Ephrata, Washington, passed away Saturday, Jan. 3, 2015 at Columbia Basin Hospital in Ephrata after a courageous battle with cancer.

He was born in Spokane, Washington on August 16, 1946 to Elmer and Gladys (Jones) Davis of Pend Oreille County near Usk, Washington.

The Davis family moved to Ephrata when Ben was in the fifth grade, and where he graduated from Ephrata High School in 1964. Ben attended Big Bend Community College and Eastern Washington State College in Cheney, Washington where he received a degree in Business Administration.

At age 16 (May 1963) Ben was involved in a life changing car accident. He never let his injuries define who he was.

Ben married Roberta Nickel of Ephrata on September 14, 1968. They had two sons, Kevin and Scott.

Ben had a 40-year career with the USDA Farm Service Agency as the Grant County Executive Director. He loved his coworkers like they were family. He was highly respected in the Ag community and he greatly enjoyed the farmers he served. Ben always said he didn't work for the government, he worked for the farmers of Grant County.

After retirement, Ben worked for Chris Jacobsen from 2008 until Jan. 2013 at Chris' Excavation. Jake Jacobsen was Ben's 'other brother from another mother', and he considered Jacobsen's his 'family' – Jake and Peg, Chris and Dorothy Harris, Chuck and Sherry, Eric and Wanda.

Ben loved Ephrata! He volunteered countless hours to Ephrata Youth Soccer, Ephrata Little League, and as an eight year council member for the City of Ephrata. Ephrata loved Ben! He was highly respected and well-liked (by most) in the community. He believed in treating people with respect, not making excuses, hard work, family, friends, and not taking yourself too seriously. Ben loved people and would always want to talk about the success of others rather than his own.

Hunting and fishing were his greatest passion, especially waterfowl hunting. Memories of time spent together doing something we all loved is what those who knew him and hunted with him will cherish. Ben is definitely operating a guide service in Heaven. He loved to cook for large groups, pick (and eat) huckleberries, and hunt for morel mushrooms.

Ben is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 46 years, Roberta Davis; son Kevin Davis (Tanya Escure), and two granddaughters – Hannah (13) and Emma (10), of Ephrata; son, Scott (Jenifer) Davis, and three granddaughters – Laura (14), Julia (11), and Kara (5), of Ephrata; his brother Donald (Barb) Davis of Ephrata, and two nephews, Cory (Tanya) Davis of Wenatchee, Wash., and Eric (Jodi) Davis of Ephrata. Ben is also survived by his sister Susan (Kelly) Bryan of Colorado Springs, Colo., nephew Curtis (Karina) Bryan, and niece Katie Bryan. He is also survived by his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Russ (Marilyn) Sage of Lakeview, Wash., niece Deb (Skip) Alexander, nephew Rick (Oralia) Sage, and Rob (Trish) Sage.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Elmer and Gladys Davis.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to any local community-based organization of your choice.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 10, 2015 at the Community Church of Ephrata, 54 K Street SE. A reception will immediately follow at the Ephrata Recreation Center, 12 Basin Street SW.

Please express your thoughts and memories for the family at www.nicolesfuneralhome.com

Arrangements are under the care of Nicoles Funeral Home of Ephrata, Wash.

Previous Events

Service

JAN 10. 1:00 PM (PT)

Community Church of Ephrata
54 K Street SE
Ephrata, WA 98823

Tribute Wall

ED

“ *Emma Davis lit a candle in memory of Benton "Ben" Davis*



Emma Davis - April 20, 2015 at 11:13 PM

ED

“ *Emma Davis sent a virtual gift in memory of Benton "Ben" Davis*



Emma Davis - April 20, 2015 at 11:06 PM

JM

“ *Mike's and my prayers for Roberta, Kevin & Scott ... Great neighbors for almost 20 years and to Don, my EHS '63 classmate. I can still remember Ben's accident when we were in high school; but, what always impressed me was Ben's determination to do anything and everything he could, with a big smile on his face. Praying for God's peace and strength for you all.*



Joyce Mulliken - January 13, 2015 at 10:17 PM

RP

“ I worked with Ben at USDA FSA/ASCS. It was an honor to have been trained by Ben and to have learned from the master. Ben was always available to ask a question and was well regarded as one of the best in our business. He was honored to work with the farmers of Grant County and always had fun doing what he loved doing as he worked at the "job". There are so many of us younger office managers that started in the mid 80's and late 90's that got to learn from Ben and are successful because of his training. Ben and Roberta you are loved by all of us that had the honor of learning from the master MR Ben Davis.

Thanks Ben

Randy Primmer

Randy Primmer - January 09, 2015 at 10:24 PM

BP

“ My thoughts and prayers are with family and friends during this time of loss.
Bonnie Polhamus

Bonnie Polhamus - January 09, 2015 at 09:36 AM

AP

“ Ben was a Great Person and one who was so helpful in helping farmers understand the complex farm programs. He was a great asset to everyone who used the ASCS office for assistance is working through the tough times for farmers. He was missed when he left the ASCS office and will be greatly missed now. May your fond memories sustain you as you work through this difficult time. My sincere condolences are sent to all of you. Sincerely Alice Parker

Alice Parker - January 08, 2015 at 02:54 PM

RP

“ *Randie Ponozzo lit a candle in memory of Benton "Ben" Davis*



Randie Ponozzo - January 06, 2015 at 10:35 PM

RP

“ *I used to babysit for Ben and Roberta many, many years ago (yes, Kevin and Scott!) and then had the pleasure of working for Ben at the ASCS office in the mid 80's. What a great man and who was also an awesome cribbage player! He taught me how to play and several of us employees had a blast during break time! He will be greatly missed but just knowing he is in a better place and pain free makes it a little easier. Roberta, Kevin and Scott, my heart goes out to you, find comfort in ALL the good, funny times..he'll always be with you.*

Randie, Dave and Kaylee Ponozzo

Randie Ponozzo - January 06, 2015 at 10:34 PM



“ *Condolences to Roberta and Family. We were sorry to hear of Ben's passing. Our hearts and prayers are with you during this trying time. The Lauzier Family*

Rose Lauzier - January 06, 2015 at 01:19 PM