



## Daniel Michael Dietrich

February 3, 1937 - October 26, 2024

Daniel Michael Dietrich, known to many as Dan, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loved ones. Born on February 3, 1937, in Portland, OR, to Gwendolyn and Dan Dietrich, Dan's life was a testament to hard work, dedication, and love for his family and community.

Dan's early years were spent in LaGrande, OR, and later in Pasco, where his father took over the family garbage business. The family eventually settled in Vancouver, WA, where Dan attended Battleground School and excelled in varsity basketball. At 17, he joined the Air National Guard, marking the beginning of a long and distinguished military career.

Dan's summers during high school were spent working for his Uncle John at Basin Disposal in Pasco. One memorable summer, Dan took over his uncle's route without a driver's license, a story that brought laughter for years to come.

After graduating in 1956, Dan attended Eastern Washington College of Education on a basketball scholarship. He joined the Army ROTC and later transferred to the Army National Guard, where he served with distinction, retiring as a Major in 1981 after 24 years.

In 1957, Dan married Virginia Rae Zigan, and they built a life together in

Moses Lake and later Ephrata, WA. Dan worked for the City of Ephrata and Grant County, where he developed a deep understanding of the solid waste industry. His commitment to environmental stewardship was unwavering, a promise he made to God and kept throughout his life.

Dan and Virginia adopted two children, Michelle Rae and Michael Ryan, who brought immense joy to their lives. Dan's dedication to his family was evident in his support of their endeavors and his pride in their achievements.

In 1978, Dan took over a small garbage franchise, eventually building Consolidated Disposal Services, Inc. from the ground up. His hard work and determination transformed the business into a thriving enterprise, reflecting his meticulous nature and commitment to excellence.

Dan enjoyed hunting, motorcycling, and spending time with his family. His adventures included hunting trips to Canada and a memorable motorcycle tour of Southeast Australia.

Dan is survived by his beloved wife, Virginia; his children, Michelle Rae and Michael Ryan; his grandchildren, Ashley, Jessi, Jordyn, Nancy, Gracelyn, and Trevor; and his great-grandchildren, Jaiden, Harley, Tegan, Anastasia, Ashton, Alaina, and Colton; several nieces, nephews, and cousins. His legacy of hard work, dedication, and love will be cherished by all who knew him.

A celebration of Dan's life will be held on November 4, 2024, beginning with the Rosary at 10:30 AM and Mass at 11:00 AM at Saint Rose of Lima Catholic church in Ephrata, Washington. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Saint Rose of Lima Catholic School in Dan's memory.

# Previous Events

## Viewing

NOV 4. 10:00 AM (PT)

St. Rose of Lima  
323 D St. SW  
Ephrata, WA 98823

## Rosary

NOV 4. 10:30 AM (PT)

St. Rose of Lima  
323 D St. SW  
Ephrata, WA 98823

## Memorial Mass

NOV 4. 11:00 AM (PT)

St. Rose of Lima  
323 D St. SW  
Ephrata, WA 98823

## Honor Guard Graveside

NOV 4. 12:00 PM (PT)

Ephrata Catholic Cemetery  
333 E St. SW  
Ephrata, WA 98823

## Reception

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NOV 4 (PT)

American Legion  
276 8th Ave N.W.  
Ephrata, WA 98823  
(509) 754-2761

*Immediately Following Graveside Service*

# Tribute Wall

KM

“ *Bob and Karen Mayer have known Jenny and Dan for many, many years. We go way back to National Guard days here in Ephrata. We rode motorcycles with Dietrich's for a few years in the late sixties after we would get done with work and go to dinner. We had a good bunch of friends we all hung out with. Took vacations to the ocean with all of us and have many wonderful memories with Dan and Jenny. He will be deeply missed by so many good friends. Our prayer's are with Jenny and her family. 🙏❤️🙏❤️*

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**Karen Mayer** - October 31, 2024 at 12:08 AM

NB

“ *So many memories with you grandpa i remember I would wake up when you would wake up and you and I would sit at the table after i would feed the birds or sometimes it would be Jordyn and I both, and you had your cup of coffee and I would have a bowl of cereal and we would talk and just watch the birds eat their food. I remember you would take us out to the shop and let Jo and I play in your office. I love you so much grandpa you were and still the best grandpa ever I miss and love you so very much*



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**Nancy Brown** - October 30, 2024 at 08:01 PM

MA

“ I so remember all the good times with Dan and Ginny. He picked out my first Honda motorcycle and road it into the back yard for my birthday. So fun. Also, the Beta dances, the motorcycle group, marriage encounter, so many nice times. RIP

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**Mary Ackerman** - October 30, 2024 at 01:15 PM

MD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Michael Dietrich** - October 29, 2024 at 03:02 PM



“ I love you dad. Forever in my heart. 🙏👍



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**Michelle Dietrich Brown** - October 29, 2024 at 07:01 AM

SR

*I had know Dan from the times he used to go to the Brathovdes and play pool up at the old armory. I took care of Michele when they first brought her home until Ginny quit work. I followed Dans' career from the time he worked at the City of Ephrata. He really worked at succeeding at what ever he chose to do. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.*

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**Sally Roeder** - October 30, 2024 at 03:15 PM

LE

*I had the privilege of meeting Dan when he started dating my high school classmate, Virginia when we were all attending Eastern Washington College.*

*Dan was a man that was very easy to like and respect.*

*My best wish go out to Virginia and her family.*

*L. Bruce Eggleston*

*Coulee Dam Class of 1955.*

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**L. Bruce Eggleston** - October 31, 2024 at 03:51 PM