



David Donald "Dave" Widel

September 18, 1944 - April 27, 2026

David Donald "Dave" Widel, 81, of Ephrata, Washington, passed away on April 27, 2026.

Dave was born on September 18, 1944, in Omak, Washington, to Don and Laverne Widel, who preceded him in death. He lived a life marked by service, faith, curiosity, and a deep appreciation for learning and adventure.

He spent his early years in Brewster, WA. growing up with his sister, Vivian. The family moved to Pateros, WA in 1957 when they purchased an apple and prune orchard there. He graduated from Pateros HS and then worked on the family orchard, a place he loved more than anywhere. After the sale of the orchard, he moved to Ephrata, WA in 1977.

Dave proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Vietnam War, serving in Nha Trang, Vietnam. In recognition of his courage and sacrifice, he was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and various Service and Campaign Medals. Following his military service, he continued his education and earned an Associate of Arts degree from Big Bend Community College.

Throughout his career, Dave worked as a truck driver for National Frozen Foods. Beyond his profession, he was a man of many talents and interests.

An accomplished airplane mechanic, he had a lifelong fascination with aviation, motorcycles, chess, music, ancient and Western history, and classic literature. A gifted writer, Dave co-authored and published the children's book *Mystery at Shark's Teeth*. He was known for his thoughtful nature, keen intellect, and love of storytelling.

Dave also enjoyed life's simple pleasures. He never lost his fondness for Coca-Cola and hot dogs, and he found joy in sharing his interests and knowledge with those around him.

Above all, Dave was a lifelong and devoted Christian whose faith guided him throughout his life. His steadfast belief, quiet strength, and kind spirit left a lasting impression on family and friends.

Dave is survived by his sister, Vivian (Denis) Plew; his niece, Jennifer (Kent) Bates; his nephew, Jeffrey (Shanon) Plew; great-nieces Ashley (Michael) Ratigan and Molly (Dustin) Yedinak; great-nephews Brett (Stephanie) Robinson, Stetson Plew, Colton Plew, Dillon Plew, Kory (Rissa) Bates, Hudson Flynn, and Payton Flynn; and six great-great-nieces and nephews.

Dave will be remembered for his service to his country, his devotion to his faith, his love of learning, and the kindness he shared with others. His legacy lives on in the many lives he touched and the memories cherished by those who knew and loved him.

A service will be held at a later date in Brewster, WA.

"Well done, good and faithful servant." — Matthew 25:23