



Dewey Masaru Spurbeck

October 19, 1952 - August 5, 2023

Dewey Masaru Spurbeck lost his battle with cancer on August 5th and as a child of God has entered into the presence of our Beloved Savior.

He was born at the US Army hospital in Yokohama, Japan on October 19, 1952, to Sid and Katsuko Spurbeck. His father was a navy officer so after being reassigned back to the USA the family lived in Norfolk Virginia, Corpus Christi Texas, and San Diego California.

In 1957 his father retired from the Navy and was offered a position as a commercial airline pilot for Saudi Arabian Airlines. He accepted the position and the family moved to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia where they lived in a compound next to the airport for the following 6 years. While living overseas the family visited such exotic places as Egypt, Kenya, Israel, Thailand, Japan, and Hong Kong along with several European destinations.

In 1964 the family moved back to Soap Lake where they owned farmland and Dewey graduated from Soap Lake High in 1970. While in high school he participated on the track, football, and wrestling teams. After graduation, he attended Big Bend CC for a year but told his mother that he wasn't going back for a second year because he didn't want to be a teacher. His love was for the outdoors and in 1973 he moved to Lakeport California with high school friend Ron Paull to try his hand as a commercial fisherman. Between 1973 and 1982 he spent time working in either California or the Soap Lake area and finally decided to move back from California permanently in 1982. After working enough construction jobs, he learned the skills to become proficient in

carpentry and decided to own his own business and become self-employed. Dewey settled down in Rim Rock Cove on Blue Lake where he built decks and additions for many of the homes at Rim Rock Cove. He was a master craftsman and was sought out by most of Rim Rock's residents when they had a construction project because they were confident in the quality of his exceptional workmanship. He was so well known that some of his Rim Rock friends referred to him as the "Mayor of Blue Lake."

He started working for the Almira-Coulee-Hartline school district in 2001 as a janitor and bus driver to help supplement his income. While driving bus he got to know many of the kids who rode his bus and was beloved not just by the kids who rode but by many other students and parents as well. You would often see him at different sporting events rooting passionately for ACH teams. He retired from the school district in 2018.

Dewey enjoyed camping, huckleberry picking, hunting, fishing, and some travel but it was being around people that he really loved. Not willing to let cancer dictate how he lived he went to Ilwaco to visit his friend John and went salmon fishing on John's boat a few weeks before he passed away. Then he went to northern California to see his friend Ron and rode the Skunk Train which is something he always wanted to do. After his California trip, he went to northern Idaho the following week to pick huckleberries with his friend Bob. He was part of a golf team that for many years participated in an annual golf tournament held at Vic Meyers Golf Course at Sun Lakes State Park.

He is survived by brothers Chuck, Chris (Kris), Joel, Matt (Jeanie), sister Bonnie (Ken) as well as many nephews and nieces.

A special thanks to Vance and Kimberly Lelli, Chrys Leonard, and Roger Hill who were good friends of Dewey's and helped provide exceptional care during the last few weeks of his life.

Cemetery Details

Valley View Memorial Park

20174 Rd A N.E.
Soap Lake, WA 98851
(509) 754-4150
bea.white@nicolesfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

SEP **22**. 11:00 AM (PT)

First Baptist Church Soap Lake
322 Division Street
Soap Lake , WA 98851

Tribute Wall

SH

“Wow! Sitting on my patio i Panama & had a flashback of my best friend! A very long time ago in Jeddah - mid 50's - we were kids. I so wish I could have contacted him before.

Condolences to his family!

S Dale Hancock - December 10, 2024 at 09:45 PM

MS

“I met Dewey in Rimrock Cove and I hired him to do some construction projects around my home there as I have heard from others that he was meticulous when doing construction. I learned this first hand when we did a couple of projects together on my home and shared stories while doing these projects. He was a friend that I truly admired and I will miss seeing him about the "Cove". Rest in peace sir, you earned it.

Mark Sonnabend

Mark Sonnabend - August 29, 2023 at 02:21 PM

KE

“Dewey was the only person who would help me to get to Chandler, Arizona when my husband, Eric Sherman, was diagnosed with bladder cancer. You couldn't ask for a better friend. He was a light in a dark world. He will be greatly missed.

K. Eilers - August 20, 2023 at 12:38 PM

AA

“*“Friend” is the word that comes to mind when I think of Dewey Spurbeck. I was blessed to know Dewey for a little over a year and in that time he added so much joy and friendship to my life. He would text me every holiday to say hello. When I got to see him, we'd visit about our trips and families, and about life in general. Those are definitely conversations I'm going to miss. While I'm happy to know he no longer has the physical confines of his cancer.... he's left a hole in my heart. I know that hole is left in many others as well. Goodbye sweet friend.*

*With love;
Aubrey*

Aubrey Asay - August 16, 2023 at 12:46 PM