



Jerry K Simon

May 19, 1956 - August 1, 2020

Jerry Simon died on the evening of August 1, 2020 after a difficult battle with pancreatic cancer. He died in his house surrounded by his wife, Cathy and his three sons, Daniel, Patrick, and Christopher. He took his last breath as his wife prayed to Jesus Christ for him, as a single tear rolled down his right eye. His last words were a faint “I know”, that same morning, when his boys told him that they loved him.

Jerry was born in Bozeman, MT to Dale and Dorothy Simon. He grew up in Tekoa, WA. He received a BS in Agricultural Education in 1978 from Washington State University, an MS in Vocational-Technical Education in 1986 from Washington State University, and a Ph.D. in Education in 1991 from the University of Minnesota. While in Minnesota, he met his loving wife, Cathy. They moved to Washington shortly after they were married. His career in education included being a teacher, principal, and superintendent for 40 years. Jerry taught at Conrad, MT, Royal City, WA, worked at Office of Public Instruction in Olympia, as principal and superintendent in Rosalia, WA School District, and retired in 2018 after 21 years as a superintendent in Ephrata. His philosophy was “to work as a team” and was proud to serve in the school districts and communities.

Jerry’s favorite sport was basketball. He played for two years at Spokane Community College and coached high school for a total of seven years in

Conrad and Royal City. Jerry enjoyed watching his kids play sports and was their biggest supporter. He coached his three son's AAU basketball teams for a total of 6 years.

Anyone who knew Jerry knows that he was an avid fly fisherman, a skill he loved teaching his sons. Other passions of Jerry included woodworking, hunting, and cooking. Jerry and his wife Cathy loved taking scenic drives in the mountains of Idaho and spent the majority of their summers at their family cabin, that he built with his family. As a strong believer in Jesus Christ, Jerry was adamant about his faith and loved sharing it with others.

He is survived by his wife of 31 years and his sons; Daniel (30), Patrick (28), and Christopher (25); his mother, 3 brothers, and 3 sisters. He is preceded in death by his father, Dale Simon.

A private gravesite service will be held at Goldenrod Cemetery in Tekoa, WA on August 14, officiated by Pastor Rory Lewellyn. You are welcome to express thoughts and memories for the family at www.nicolesfuneralhome.com. An online video/slideshow will be posted a few days after the service.

Tribute Wall



“ *i am very sorry for the loss dr simon was a good man he knew my parents very well he will be missed dearly praying for you guys*

Patrick Scellick - March 21, 2021 at 01:31 AM

DO

“ *Gary and I are just so sad to hear that Dr. Simon has passed. What a truly good human being and what a wonderful administrator. As a staff member, I will always appreciate his dedication to our school district and our students, his "open-door policy", his willingness to ask questions, his kindness and his gift with numbers! My gosh, that man had an incredible mind! Cathy, Daniel, Patrick and Christopher, your dad always gave me updates on each of you when we saw each other around the district. He was so proud of each of you, and his love for you all was expressed in those updates. Gary and I send prayers of comfort and peace. We can only imagine what your hearts are enduring. Please know we hold you close in our hearts. Sincerely, Dominique and Gary Bracht*

Dominique - August 24, 2020 at 10:41 PM

SM

“ *Dr. Jerry Simon was a mentor and friend and he will be missed. Thoughts and prayers go out to Cathy, Daniel, Patrick and Christopher.*

Shannon Criss Molitor - August 24, 2020 at 04:34 PM

RS

“ Rose Schemper lit a candle in memory of Jerry K Simon



Rose Schemper - August 19, 2020 at 05:18 PM

RS

“ Cathy, I am so sorry to hear of Jerry's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Rose Schemper

Rose Schemper - August 19, 2020 at 05:16 PM

SS

“ We have been thinking of you and praying that the Lord will comfort you and fill that loneliness with His presence. Love in Christ.

Steve and Nancy Stokes August 18, 2020

Steve and Nancy Stokes - August 18, 2020 at 06:37 PM

JD

“ Jerry was my classmate at Tekoa School District. Another girl in my class and I were the first girls to take Shop Class, which was taught by Jerry's father Dale Simon. Both of us girls took this class Senior Year. Both Jerry and his brother Duane were in the Shop class. I think the guys secretly loved having us girls in the class, but they HAD to harass us and try to embarrass us. Jerry did his share.....

Shop class was fun, even with the guys trying to embarrass the girls..... I will never forget shop class with Jerry (and Duane and Dale).

JJ Dippel - August 14, 2020 at 06:53 PM

BC

“ *Dr. Jerry Simon served the Ephrata School District and community tirelessly for over 20 years. As Ephrata Superintendent he was committed to ensuring that every student received the time, attention, and tools that they needed to succeed. Jerry worked with teachers, administrators, staff, and board members to continually improve the education of our children. He treated everyone with fairness and respect. The high quality of Ephrata’s educational program owes a great deal to Jerry’s leadership and his heart for this community. He cared about people, he was our friend, and he will be greatly missed.*

Ephrata School Board

Bill Correll - August 12, 2020 at 02:40 PM

JD

I bet that his father Dale was an inspiration because Dale was a teacher at the high school we attended.

JJ Dippel - August 14, 2020 at 06:43 PM

ND

“ *Nicole Davidson lit a candle in memory of Jerry K Simon*



Nicole Davidson - August 10, 2020 at 02:33 PM

ND

“ *Cathy and sons, please know you are in my daily prayers. My family and I want to send our deepest condolences. I pray your wonderful memories can ease some of the grief at this time. God bless you and your boys.*

Nicole Davidson and family

Nicole Davidson - August 10, 2020 at 02:32 PM

“Ephrata, especially Ephrata School district lost a good friend this last week in the passing of Dr. Jerry Simon. During the last year that he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, he kept his faith strong. Jerry was superintendent of schools for 21 years in Ephrata. He was instrumental in providing the leadership during this particularly tumultuous time. To be able to survive, let alone thrive, as superintendent for this length of time is a testament to his tenacity and compassion. The average length of service for a superintendent in Washington is about four and a half years.

I say tenacity because these were the years the state of Washington kept throwing moving targets at school personnel. WASL started, a new concept in assessing students. EALR's were added-telling local school districts what to teach. Specific graduation requirements were added, necessitating change. At one time I remember, we counted dozens of new acronyms to the school system. Schools systems are not designed to change fast. Jerry's tenacity kept us focused on what needed to be completed.

I say compassion about Jerry because he was the consummate 'second chance' giver. With over 300 employees and 2500 students there were plenty of chances to witness human failures 'up close and personal'. Jerry believed in giving as many 'second and third' chances as possible. He understood human weakness and worked with us to try and see the best in people.

Jerry, as superintendent of schools, was the glue that kept us all connected and focused for our mission of serving students and families.

He was visionary. Jerry was instrumental in forming the initial plans for the building bond which Ephrata citizens overwhelmingly passed this past year. Once they are completed we can thank Jerry for his initial concepts and vision. Our students and staff needed this building support.

Jerry was a man of faith. We visited many times about the coming life, doing what we can now to help, keeping strong in our faith to Jesus. He loved fishing on the St Joe river. Jerry, my Christian brother—I'll see you on the other side of the river.

Blessings Always

Dan Martell

Dan Martell - August 08, 2020 at 09:58 PM

DM

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Dan Martell - August 08, 2020 at 09:55 PM

MR

“ *Melanie Rose lit a candle in memory of Jerry K Simon*



Melanie Rose - August 08, 2020 at 05:33 PM

LP

“ *I met Jerry & Cathy just once, but they left an impression on me. I could see the love between them so clearly. I'm sending lots of love & prayers to Cathy & the whole family, I was so saddened to hear of Jerry's passing.*



Lea Preciado - August 07, 2020 at 10:58 AM