



Larry Arthur Tommer Sr

September 13, 1920 - November 11, 2015

This is the legacy of a man who: Simply loved life...loved hard work...loved long days...loved flying, fishing and hunting...running equipment, going to auctions and making a deal...rebuilding and repairing equipment...had a unique appreciation for and loved to hug the women (with a 'Larry Sr hug'...) ...he treasured coffee breaks with friends...and in his later years; he loved puttering for hours at a time, and the list could go on and on.....! He had the ability to go from screaming to crying, and apologizing all in one breath....!

To many he was truly and simply 'a' character...

Inside he was a man 'of' true and simple character.

He drove himself around town for far longer than he should have...his sense of go...go...going never stopped even in the end.

That's just a little about the man, Lawrence Arthur Tommer Sr., who ran an amazing race for 95 years and crossed his finish line November 11, 2015 at Columbia Basin Hospital in Ephrata, WA.

Larry's life began in Waterville, Kansas Sept 13, 1920, born to John Isadore and Amelia Eva (Forst). He left home at 17, beginning his legacy of hard work and his commitment to our country as a Marine in Santa Barbara, CA in the early 1940's. He met the love of his life, Katherine Sophie Johnson, who also

was a Marine, actually his Sargent! They were married in Santa Barbara, July 1945, and had their first son there, Lawrence Jr. (Larry Jr.) born on June 30, 1946, followed by their second son, Nicholas (Nick) born in Bellingham on April 29, 1950. In 1959 the family moved to Ocean Shores, which was the beginning of Tommer Construction and in 1968 left the wet coastal weather after falling for the 'dry weather' of Ephrata.

Larry was a master mechanic, a master equipment operator, a pilot, electrician, TV repairman, a logger. He was not satisfied with being just 'good' at anything, he worked hard to become a master of everything he did, to the best of his ability.

To his sister Imogene, he was "the best big brother ever, and was always good to his 2 younger sisters." He taught his grandkids about hard work and to simply live life to the fullest. He was also the best hunting partner ever, according to Susie, and loved to make you laugh and give you 'love pinches' all day long.

He is survived by his younger sister Imogene Roepke of Hoquiam, WA; his son Larry Jr. of Montana, Larry's daughter's; Shannon (& Steve Ramsey), Winters, CA, Michelle, Cristine of Wenatchee, WA, Sherrie of Winters, CA and Susie (& Josh Blair) of Montana; his second son and daughter-in-law Nick and Donna of Ephrata, his children Christopher of Ephrata and Jada Molitor (& Dan) of Ephrata; 10 great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his loving wife Kay in 1999, his parent's John & Amelia, and his younger sister, Katy.

We want to express our appreciation to the group of caretakers (Linda, Kirk, James and his nephew Randall) who took excellent care of him and made it possible for him to remain in the comforts of his home. And to the wonderful staff at Columbia Basin Hospital who kept him comfortable and cared for him

professionally and thoughtfully, the last few days of his life. Services will be held at the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church at 11am on Wednesday, November 18th with a reception immediately following and Graveside Services at 2pm at Lakeview Cemetery in Soap Lake, WA. All are welcome to join the family at 1590 Alder NW, Ephrata (Sr's residence) for continued celebration and reminiscing.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Columbia Basin Hospital in honor of Larry Tommer Sr.

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

NOV 18. 11:00 AM (PT)

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

Graveside

NOV 18. 2:00 PM (PT)

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

Tribute Wall

ST

“ 5 files added to the album *Grandpa Larry and Family*



Susanne Tommer - November 17, 2015 at 08:23 PM

ST

“ 3 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Susanne Tommer - November 17, 2015 at 08:21 PM

TA

“ Larry Tommer saved my life. In 1966 I was a 20 year old kid that had spent the weekend at Ocean Shores with friends. 6 of us were playing in the surf on Sunday afternoon. The tide changed and we were all caught in a rip tide. My 5 friends all made it to shore. I did not. I floated and tread water for over three hours and was close to death with Larry Tommer and Larry Love returned to Ocean Shores in a small plane. Seeing all the people and emergency vehicles on the beach they flew over to take a look. They spotted me waving at them about three big rollers out. Prior to them seeing me any efforts to find me were winding down. Authorities were so sure I had drowned that there was not even an ambulance on scene. Larry and Larry landed and reported I was still alive and a Coast Guard Copter was brought in and I was rescued. I spent the night in the hospital and was honored to have Mr Tommer and Mr Love visit me the next morning. I'm here today because of the actions of these two gentlemen. Thank you one last time. Rest in Peace Larry Tommer.

Terry J Anderson

Moses Lake

Terry Anderson - November 17, 2015 at 07:22 PM