



Arvid (Skip) Uttech

January 17, 1950 - February 20, 2026

On Friday, February 20, 2026, Arvid “Skip” Elwain Uttech Jr. peacefully disembarked this life, surrounded by his loving family at his side. He was 76 years old.

Skip was born on January 17, 1950, in Dickinson to his parents, Father Arvid Elwain Sr. and Mother Alleyene Uttech. As the firstborn child, he naturally stepped into a role of leadership and responsibility. He was later joined by his brothers, Arwin “Spud” of Beulah and Kevin of Amidon, and his sisters, Rene and Nadine, both of Bowman. The bonds formed in those early years remained a treasured part of his life.

Skip graduated from Bowman High School in 1968. In September of 1969, he enlisted in the United States Army. He completed basic training at the U.S. Army Training Center at Fort Lewis and continued his service at the U.S. Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, where he trained as an Army medic. After three years of active duty and three years in the reserves, Skip was honorably discharged, carrying with him a deepened sense of discipline, compassion, and service.

Returning to Washington, Skip devoted his time to another calling—serving his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. At a Bible camp in Des Moines, he poured his heart into mentoring and supporting children. It was there that he met the love of his life, Carol Jean Hedeem of Seattle. They were married on September 14, 1974, beginning a devoted partnership that would span more than five decades.

Skip and Carol welcomed their first son, Timothy, in September 1975, and their second son, John, in October 1977. The Bible camp years were filled with faith, laughter, and family memories that shaped their boys' childhoods and strengthened Skip's own passion for teaching.

Inspired to further his education, Skip moved his family to Ellensburg to pursue his teaching degree at Central Washington University, earning his credentials and launching a career that would impact generations. He accepted a position with the Chelan School District and moved his family to Chelan—a community they would proudly call home for more than 40 years. For more than 20 years, Skip taught science at Chelan Middle School, where his classroom was anything but ordinary. Students fondly remember his lively experiments—from the unforgettable “Egg Drop” off the school rooftop to the explosive excitement of the “Big Bang Lab.” His room was filled with class pets, including a two-headed snake, gerbils, guinea pigs, and hamsters. In Mr. Uttech's class, science was hands-on, engaging, and full of wonder.

Skip's enthusiasm did not end when the school bell rang. He was a constant presence at Chelan sporting events—announcing, keeping score, and cheering from the sidelines. In one memorable season, he promised the boys' basketball team that if they went undefeated, he would shave his head. They did—and true to his word, so did he. His students and athletes each earned a permanent place in his “heart of fame,” and the community he loved returned that affection in abundance.

Beyond the classroom, Skip and Carol devoted themselves to missionary work and helping families in need. Some of these missions took them overseas, with Austria holding a special place in Skip's heart. He found pure joy in assisting with home projects, building relationships, and bringing fellowship and encouragement to others.

In retirement in 2012, Skip embraced time with his growing family. He and Carol were blessed with five beloved grandchildren: Iris, Rhyder, Ivin, Ellarae, and Tev. Becoming “Papa” was one of his greatest joys. From tea parties to dinosaur adventures, he was always present, hands-on, and wholeheartedly

engaged. His grandchildren brought immeasurable happiness to his life. Shortly after retiring, Skip was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. He faced his illness with unwavering faith and quiet strength, never complaining and trusting that God walked beside him every step of the way. As the disease progressed, he leaned on the love of his family and the compassionate care of many devoted caregivers, for whom he was deeply grateful.

Skip will be remembered for his steadfast faith, his servant's heart, his playful spirit, and his profound love for family and community. He leaves behind a legacy of integrity, joy, and lives forever changed by his influence. He will be tremendously missed and forever cherished.

Previous Events

Service

MAR 14. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

North Shore Bible Church
123 Wapato Point Parkway
Manson, WA 98831
(509) 687-3636

Interment

MAR 14. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (PT)

Chelan Fraternal Cemetery
815 N. Bradley St.
Chelan, WA 98816

Tribute Wall



“ Skip was a year ahead of me in school, but we had mutual friends and we played football and basketball together. He was kind and hardworking and gave everything his "all"! I'm proud and happy to have known him.

Les Gail Mason - June 01 at 12:51 AM

GW

“ It was only quite recently that I learned that Skip had passed away. After his brother, "Spud", passed away, I lost my source of information about Skip, my long-time childhood friend. I first met Skip when our family moved to Bowman, ND, in 1958. Skip, Spud and the rest of the Uttech family were our neighbors. We played endless games of baseball and football with Skip and Spud and sometimes their younger brother, Kevin. Skip's mother used to cut my hair when it needed cutting and she and my mother, Irene, were close friends. I used to buy new shoes at Uttech's Bootery, which was operated by Skip's father. We celebrated the Fourth of July together by setting off fireworks and shooting rockets at each other, much to the dismay of our parents.

Our friendship continued throughout high school and beyond and for a while Skip also attended college at Dickinson State, where I received my undergraduate degree. At some point, Skip entered the Army and ended up living in Washington State and making his life there. I last saw Skip in 1997, when he was in Bismarck, ND, where I lived at the time, to visit his mother, who was in the hospital.

Skip was a great friend in Bowman and I'm sure a great teacher as well later in life. My wife, Cynthia, and I wish to express our condolences to the entire family. He will be missed.

Gary Wolberg and Cynthia Bates
1135 Country Club Drive
Spearfish, SD 57783
Email: grwolberg@gmail.com

Gary Wolberg - May 30 at 09:32 PM

SM

“ I still talk about the fun and amazing teacher I had for 7th grade science. Mr. Uttech was the best teacher I ever had. Many of the experiments he had us do in class I've now replicated with my own child. As an adult I always looked forward to running into him to catch up on life. He leaves behind such an amazing legacy and I hope he and all his family and friends are proud of him for a life well lived 💙

Stephanie Milliette - March 06 at 03:53 PM

KL

“ Mr. Uttech was the most incredible teacher. He truly cared about his patients and also their successes beyond the classroom. Some of my greatest times during school were in his classroom, from frying and eating bugs, and the big bang that was referenced in the obituary. I can still hear him yelling “you’re getting in the danger zone!!” right before the balloon was about to pop! lol. I’ll forever be grateful for him.

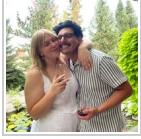
KL - March 05 at 07:34 PM

ST

“ **STEPHANIE T.** purchased a sympathy card for the family of Arvid (Skip) Uttech.



STEPHANIE T. - March 03 at 04:39 PM



“ I will never forget his sense of humor and the way he kept us students on our toes! Many laughs and wonderful learning opportunities were had in his classroom. May he rest easy with our good Lord and savior ❤️



Josie Gallup - March 03 at 02:11 PM



“ I will forever remember eating mealworms in his 7th grade science class and creating songs about earthquakes to remember the answers on the test. I owe my deep love and appreciation for the moon, stars and planets from his 8th grade astronomy class. Mr. Utech was one of my most favorite teachers and was truly a pillar to the Chelan Valley community. He will always be loved and remembered in our home. 🌙❤️

Caity Koehler - March 03 at 11:45 AM



“ O my,I had no idea all these years his actual name was Arvid.I loved him and his wife Mrs.Utech,and their son John,was my verry first real crush,and was completely inbarrased at the 8th grade dance that John was the dj for,when my "friends",(technically the ones that bullied me bad enuff I quit public school,told him I had a crush on him and he and his dad came outside and asked me to go dance the last dance of the night with John. ALWAYS a smile and a cheerfull greeting when entering his class. RIP SKIP. MR.UTTECH



Dani Clark - March 03 at 11:31 AM



“ *Mr. Uttech was my first grade teacher. My mornings in his classroom started with Legos and Unifix cubes; Mr. Uttech's warm, compassionate smile and friendly greeting. As a teacher myself, I remember his enthusiastic, compassion and strive to fill my classroom with the same. The world is a brighter place because your were here Mr. Uttech.*

Cody McCabe - March 03 at 10:27 AM

CA

“ *I tried to get out of eating that worm. We cooked them in the pan. Funnest class. Yum.*

Cassi - March 03 at 10:22 AM

JS

“ *My Deepest Sympathies go out to Skip's Family during this difficult time of loss. I was a great friend and referee colleague of Spud! I will always remember Spud telling me stories about him and Skip growing up together and all the shenanigans they got into. Skip and Spud were brothers in arms. Spud always loved going to visit Skip out West. He always shared his memories of his trips. Skips Parkinson's really affected Spud a lot. He felt so so bad that Skip had to suffer with that. GOD has his plans with Spud Entering Heaven first before Skip as.he knew how very emotional and hard it be on Spud. He Loved his Brother Dearly. Now they both are enjoying Heaven together and free of pain and struggles. My thoughts.and prayers. From Jon Schardin Dickinson ND*



Jon Schardin - March 02 at 11:34 PM

RP

“ Thank you so much for being such an inspiration Mr Uttech. I’ve shared many times over the years how much I valued you as a teacher and mentor as a young man. I’ll never forget eating crickets and dropping eggs from the roof of the middle school. Your years of service to this community will not be forgotten. Rest in peace to the best teacher I ever had.

Ryan Peterson - March 02 at 11:12 PM

MW

“ I remember all the animals in his class room and I remember when I was at bible class skip said his throat was sore and he opened his mouth and a big frog jumped out of his mouth we all laughed and giggled I will miss him very much he was my middle school teacher 3 -4 years rest in peace Skip

Mary Walters - March 02 at 10:36 PM



“ My first grade teacher and one of my favorite friends father. Skip you always had time to smile and teach us. You taught a lot of us from the class of 96 about grief when our class pet scooter died. You also were our middle school basketball coach and held us to a higher standard to prep us for what was to come. You helped raise two amazing boys and my thoughts are with you and your family.

Steven Parsley - March 02 at 09:35 PM

GW

“ I met Skip in the early '90s when he taught at Chelan High School. I was Editor of Rick Gavin's Lake Chelan Mirror. Skip invited me to his science class to experience "What do grasshoppers taste like?" His science class was a hive of activity with students choosing dead grasshoppers out of glass jars and putting them in either a frying pan or a pot of boiling water. After they were "done," the students delicately (and squeamishly) chewed on their bug. Their faces lit up at how YUMMY the grasshoppers tasted. Skip created a chart - did the bugs taste like popcorn, chicken, fish, or "un-nameable?" Most said they tasted like popcorn and they would definitely eat more. He then pointed out that countries around the world often ate bugs for nutrition and he made a list of edible bugs. When students handed me a grasshopper, I accepted it, but not without a shudder. When I ate it, being 40 years older than the students, the legs stuck in my teeth! The kids thought that was hilarious. Skip said the same thing happened to him. They squealed! The next year, Skip invited me. Once again, it was a FUN assignment with a kind and humorous man at the helm. Rest in Peace dear man. My condolences to his family. Gaylen Willett

Gaylen Willett - February 25 at 05:50 PM