



James E. Lea Sr

January 23, 1934 - June 1, 2020

Born in Manning, Arkansas, Jim moved to California with his parents as a teenager. He served in the Army during the Korean conflict. When he returned to California he went to work for McDonnell Douglas Corporation. After a time he started a drywall business during the building boom. When there was a downturn in construction, he moved his family to Washington state. He started a drywall company in Washington that grew to become the largest drywall construction company in the state of Washington. James was proud that he was able to provide a secure lifestyle for his family.

Jim was an owner and breeder of Thoroughbred race horses since the early 1960s. He was most proud of his winningest filly Tavy Blue. Tavy Blue set a record in the '80s at Longacres racetrack by winning six consecutive stakes races. Later when James moved to Manson, WA he helped his mares deliver their foals on many cold January mornings.

His hobbies included fishing, crabbing, shrimping, golfing, and hunting. In his later years he took up gardening; he grew some mighty delicious corn. His corn planting cycle provided fresh corn on the cob for up to two months. The last day of his life he followed his bliss by spending the morning weeding his garden and then heading to the lake to fish in the afternoon.

Jim is preceded in death by his wife Rosalie. Although not the youngest, he was the last surviving of his eleven siblings. Jim is survived by Carol Henning, his partner of 40 years and her son John. Jim is also survived by his son James Jr., wife Louise, daughter Linda Learned, husband Dennis, daughter Kelly Waskiewicz, husband Martin, six grandsons, five granddaughters and 14 great grandkids, and the many fish that got away.

Jim is loved, respected, and admired by his large family. His death leaves a hole in our hearts.

Viewing for Jim will be Friday June 12th from 4-7 PM. Family graveside service will be held Saturday, June 13 @11 AM. Social distancing must be adhered to at all times. After the service there will be a life celebration at 1503 Wapato Lake Road, Manson.

Cemetery Details

Chelan Fraternal Cemetery

815 N. Bradley St.
Chelan, WA 98816

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 12. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

Precht Rose Chapel
332 E. Woodin Avenue
PO Box 306
Chelan, WA 98816
(509) 682-2524
mike@prechtrose.com
<https://prechtrose.com>

Graveside Service

JUN 13. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *James E. Lea Sr*

January 29, 2023 at 08:49 AM



“ *James E. Lea Sr. laid to rest 6/13/2020*

My father-in-law.

Our hearts are broken. Our dear father, grandfather, papa, uncle, and friend died 6/01/2020. He had a huge heart and deeply loved his family. His children always came first in his life. He guided them into businesses that gave them all a secure lifestyle. He was a kind comforter and wise guide for them their whole life. He loved to tell stories; a blazing campfire and a warm shot of whiskey would prime the pump. One story he told that demonstrates his strong belief in his children not getting seconds: When the kids were very young they took the family to Rosalie's brother's house for Thanksgiving dinner. When dinner was being served the hostess said the kids could continue to play in the backyard and the adults would eat first. Jim said there was no way he was eating while his hungry kids were in the backyard. He loaded up his family and found dinner elsewhere. He told this story decades later. His kids, their kids, and their grandkids were first in his heart and mind. We love him and will miss him forever.

Louise Lea - July 07, 2020 at 10:31 PM

KP

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Kurt Proffitt - June 04, 2020 at 10:36 PM

KP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Kurt Proffitt - June 04, 2020 at 07:21 PM

RB

“ Jim was always Sleepy to us growing up. He was my Hero always allowing me to be part of the older kids along with Marvin. Whether it was playing ball in field, chasing a cow, or just riding the school bus.

When we left Arkansas in 1950 we rode in the back of PaPa Leas pickup. Once when we wanted to stop Jim through his shoe out so they had to stop.

We all lived together in Hayward Ca until Jim left for Arkansas to finish school as he was harassed endlessly for his manners and southern accent.

When he was in boot camp at Fort Ord in Monterey Ca. We left San Francisco to visit him on his first leave my parents, PaPa, Granny, me and my sister. When we arrive his leave had been cancelled and he was picking up cigarette butts...apparently he and the Sargent had a dispute and he lost.

As the years passed we spent time shrimping, fishing, and telling tall tales. We also traveled together in our RVS. Pima Air Museum, Carlsbad Caverns, the River Place in Arkansas where the GREAT WHITE HUNTER was arrcked by a squirrel he had shot up in the tree. The squirrel ran down the tree and took off after Jim...it fell dead before he reached him...BUT it made a great story.

I will miss him greatly. Miss singing Happy Birthday to him evert January 23 and he telling me not to give up my day job.

RIP

Ronnie

Ronnie Bledsor - June 04, 2020 at 06:46 PM

RB

“ 14 files added to the album Memories Album



Ronnie Bledsor - June 04, 2020 at 06:27 PM