



Roy "Spider" Riggan

August 7, 1931 - April 16, 2023

Roy Dell "Spider" Riggan went to meet with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Sunday, April 16, 2023, at the age of 91. Spider was born on August 7, 1931, in Ivy, AR, to Roy and Laura Mae Riggan. At the young age of seven, Spider helped his family to make ends meet, by delivering newspapers and working as an errand boy in a local mercantile. Spider was the eldest of ten children, of which nine were born, when the family decided to uproot and move to the Okanogan Valley. Spider attended Okanogan schools and transferred to Brewster, where he excelled in Track and Basketball. During the spring, summer and fall, Spider worked in the orchards with his family, thinning and picking apples. Spider earned his nickname during a high school basketball practice, when a teammate made the comment that he was all arms and legs like a spider.... and the rest is history.

Spider married Ethel Mae Lautensleger directly after graduation, when he purchased the local Shell gas station. Spider operated the service station and spent any spare time helping his father, Roy, run the family apple orchard on the Brewster Flat, which he eventually purchased in the early 1960's. Spider expanded his operation to over 700 acres, stretching from Tonasket to Brewster and eventually purchased a small warehouse from MAGI renaming it, The Apple House. Spider was famous for handing out gum to kids and asking if you could wink, while spectating Brewster Bear sports. He also was deeply connected with the community, sponsoring and watching local youth sports.

Spider was also a Gonzaga basketball fan, never missing a game or failing to notify his siblings of what time and channel the game would be on. Spider worked hard managing his orchard property and packing shed, until the sale of The Apple House to family members, in 2007. Spider was an avid fisherman who loved the ocean, often spotted somewhere trolling for steelhead in the Methow River after working a 12 hour day. Spider loved his entire family and friends. He would often show his love in the form of teasing. Spider was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers; two sisters; one grandson; and one grand-daughter. He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Ethel Mae; sons: Del, Randy (Debbie), Corey (Brenda); daughter, Lori Brown (Mike); 13 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren; and numerous others who called him grandpa.

Visitation is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. to 7:00, on Friday, April 28, 2023, at Barnes Chapel, 510 W. Indian Ave, Brewster, WA. His service will be held at the Brewster Middle School Gymnasium on Saturday, April 29, 2023, with Interment immediately following, at Locust Grove Cemetery in Brewster.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **28**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

Barnes Chapel
510 W. Indian Avenue
PO Box 306
Brewster, WA 98812
(509) 689-3494
mike@prechtrose.com

Service

APR **29**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PT)

Brewster Middle School Gymnasium
504-S Seventh Street
Brewster, WA 98812

Interment

APR **29**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (PT)

Locust Grove Cemetery
70 Locust Way
Brewster, WA

Tribute Wall

CJ

“ Christopher Jeffris lit a candle in memory of Roy "Spider" Riggan



Christopher Jeffris - April 26, 2023 at 12:29 AM

DP

“ I worked for Spider at Apple House starting as a sorter, then a packer on top of us taking care of the orchards. He was the best boss & friend you could ever imagine.. You will be missed..



Dawn Poe - April 21, 2023 at 01:54 PM

JR

“ We will miss you Grandpa Spider.

Jacob Riggan - April 19, 2023 at 05:40 PM

DT

“ Delanee Talley lit a candle in memory of Roy "Spider" Riggan



Delanee Talley - April 18, 2023 at 10:06 PM

LD

“ *My sister Phyllis and I worked at the Apple House Packing Shed from 1986 -1998 . Spider taught us everything we know about sorting fruit . Spider was a good man and he will be missed by many. My condolences to Ethel are family*

Lila Duval - April 18, 2023 at 07:36 PM

LD

“ *Lila Duval lit a candle in memory of Roy "Spider" Riggan*



Lila Duval - April 18, 2023 at 07:35 PM

MR

Spider and Ethel were in my 1950 graduating class from BHS. Remember him well, and sorry to learn of his passing. Condolences to Ethel.

Martha L Richitelli - April 23, 2023 at 10:07 AM

SS

I will never forget Spider. My Aunt Glenna insisted my dau Stacy & I attend and upcoming family reunion in Pateros, Washington. (Glenna even missed one of her important Cribbage meets to come.) We had a good time seen many Darlington relatives & their families. Glenna wanted to go to the Brewster Cemetery before we left. We get there no one is around except us. In comes a huge SUV Truck. I said OMG. It's just us in the Cemetery. Then I hear a voice "GLENNA LITTLE". It was Spider & Ethel Mae. Spider said get in. Spider took us out to where our Grandparents Homesteaded off some dirt road. I guess it is burnt down now. Spider showed us where Aunt Millie's house had been moved, the Hospital that was on the Lautensleger property, met his son Randy & family, picked fruit off his son Del's tree and went through his garden, went through Brewster, seen many orchards. Spider found out I worked for the Gov't Printing Office and we did all the printing for the flyers at GPO in Seattle for the Dams in the Northwest.

*Spider even took us out to the Dam to show us where it was at & I picked up one of our GPO flyers to show I was there. I had him sign it and put the date on it. I will always treasure the Memories that day for Spider & Ethel Mae for taking us on that journey. We were 3 generations in the backseat that learned the history of our family. I remember Aunt Glenna saying you will have a trip of a lifetime. She was right. This day could never be repeated. We lost so many relatives since that day Spider, Weldon, Doris, Bea, Del, Both Glenna & Gary Little (that was the last of the Little's generation) and many others.
God Bless You*

The 3 in the back seat

Glenna Little

(Irene's dau & G-dau)

Sandy Cooper Sheridan

Stacy Lynn Cooper Sheridan

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S Sheridan - June 15, 2023 at 01:11 AM