



Willie Ray Bell

July 9, 1928 - October 8, 2025

Willie Ray Bell, beloved husband, father, and friend, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, at his home on October 7, 2025, at the age of 97. He was born on July 9, 1928, in Elmore City, Oklahoma, to Elijah (Lige) and Callie Bell, who preceded him in death. Ray was one of ten children, growing up in a large and loving family that instilled in him strong values of hard work, faith, and compassion.

Ray spent his early years in Oklahoma before moving to Washington, where he graduated from Manson High School. After graduation, he proudly served his country in the United States Air Force. During his service, he was stationed in Germany, where he developed lifelong values of dedication, discipline, and integrity.

Following his military service, Ray returned home and married the love of his life, Imogene (Jean) James, on May 30, 1953. Together they built a beautiful life in Lake Chelan, where they raised their two daughters, Krista Bell and Julia Bell.

Ray held several jobs over the years, including driving the bus for the local school district, along with working at the local Safeway. His deep sense of community later led him to serve as Assistant Postmaster at the Lake Chelan Post Office, a position he carried out with pride and commitment. In addition,

he was a dedicated orchardist, tending the land he loved so dearly.

Ray was a man of many joys. He loved square-dancing, golfing, bowling, snowmobiling, and was an avid reader — but, most of all; he cherished spending time with his family. His easy smile, kind heart, and steady presence brought warmth to everyone who knew him.

He is survived by his loving wife, Imogene (Jean) Bell; daughters Krista Bell and Julia Bell; niece Tammy Hedrich; nephew Jamie Edwards; and great-nieces Collette Simmons and Tina Jack. He is also survived by his siblings Joe Bell of Lake Chelan, WA, E.S. Bell, Jr. of Anacortes, WA, and Joyce Parish of Wenatchee, WA. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and the entire Lake Chelan community.

A graveside service will be held on Friday, October 17, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Riverview Cemetery, Chelan, WA, where family and friends are invited to gather in remembrance and celebration of Ray's remarkable life.

A life well lived, a man well loved — Ray's memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

OCT 17. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PT)

Chelan Riverview Cemetery
401 Riverview Road
Chelan, WA

Tribute Wall



“ *Precht Rose Chapel and Barnes Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Willie Ray Bell*



Precht Rose Chapel and Barnes Chapel - October 13, 2025 at 06:01 PM

CA

“ *Our deepest sympathies to Jean and the family - The Family of Bob & Donna McClellan*



Candi - October 13, 2025 at 06:32 PM

CB

“ *There is not enough space to write about all of the great times my husband and I shared with ray and Jean. We met while learning to square dance and spent many fun years traveling to go danc, eating out and sharing many friendships. Arnold was honored to be asked by Ray & Jean to remodel their home & he was so happy to learn things from Ray & also help him with some orchard work. My condolences to Jean, Julie & Chris and may God's love strengthen you on this life's journey.*



Chrystal A Bertram - October 12, 2025 at 06:05 PM

LM

“ Ray was always so pleasant to talk with. Not many like Ray.

Larry McFadden - October 10, 2025 at 06:24 PM

MP

“ Marie Palmer lit a candle in memory of Willie Ray Bell



Marie Palmer - October 09, 2025 at 01:52 PM

VM

“ Vita Monteleone lit a candle in memory of Willie Ray Bell



Vita Monteleone - October 09, 2025 at 09:35 AM

CW

“ Rest in Peace Ray. My condolences to his family.



Cheryl A. Williams - October 09, 2025 at 09:01 AM