



## John Benson Leenstra

February 5, 1953 - September 15, 2013

John Leenstra, age 60, passed away at home on Sunday, September 15, 2013 from cancer. John was born February 5, 1953 in Bellingham, the youngest of twelve children born to Fred and Agnes (Zylstra) Leenstra from the Netherlands.

John attended Meridian and Bellingham Schools. He was a general contractor who owned and operated Northshore Services for over 35 years.

John was a quiet, soft spoken man who was very giving and loved to help others, especially the elderly. John was very proud and supportive of his two sons. He loved to fish, and spent many enjoyable hours fishing at Baker Lake with his fishing buddy Jim Voss.

He is preceded in death by his parents; wife Marlene in 1995; siblings, Elizabeth Leenstra in 1930; and Sgt. Henry (Hank) Leenstra killed in the Korean War in 1951.

John is survived by his sons, Nicholas John Leenstra with the U.S. Army Ft. Campbell, KY, James Jamie Michael Leenstra and fiancée Brittany of Bellingham; siblings, Betty Johnson, Cal Leenstra (Bernetta), Fred Leenstra (fiancée Wanda), Lt. CDR. Richard Leenstra USN, Evva Jean Parks (Gene), Helen Meech Leenstra, Bonnie Ann O'Connor (Rich), Dixie Irene Voss (Jim),

Robert Leenstra; grandchildren, Brooklynn Marie, Ryder James; and numerous nieces, nephews, and other family members.

#### Farewell Tribute Information

A memorial service will be held Tuesday, September 24, at 11:30 AM, at Moles Farewell Tributes-Bellingham. Donations Information

As a special thanks, memorials may be made in lieu of flowers to PeaceHealth Cancer Care at [www.peacehealth.org](http://www.peacehealth.org), or Interfaith Community Health Center at [www.interfaithchc.org](http://www.interfaithchc.org).

# Tribute Wall

RM

“ John, Dave (Roth) and I were very good friends during the early sixties. Although we drifted apart and had our own lives there will always be the memories and friendships we had. I can only say that all the memories I had of John were good and I am saddened by his passing. As, Dave said, time seems to pass so quickly. How I long for those summer days in Bellingham, the trips to Whatcom Falls and Lake. Life was good. Now John is gone. So sad.

---

**Richard A McQuade** - September 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ I was so so sorry to read his passing in the paper. He has been one of my customers for so many years... when he would come to my register i would always chat a bit with him... Over the years what i learned about him was he worked hard, and was a great father. He loved his boys so much. I always got a kick out of seeing him and his son on a daily bases for a long time.. the last few years he had not been in that much until the last 8 months, it was so nice to see him again and i hope you boys come in and see me and let me know whats new like your dad would do,...He will be greatly missed...

---

**Dianne Kelmis** - September 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

NV

“ My condolences to the Leenstra family, especially Nick & Jamie. I met John about 15 years ago and enjoyed conversation with him... he was a big hearted, soft spoken man. I appreciate all the work he gave me over the years and will miss visiting with him. The world needs more men like John...

---

**Nicholas Valich** - September 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM