



## Kay Don LeMaster

March 6, 1930 - October 14, 2014

Our wonderful father, grandfather, great-grandfather and husband went to be with his Lord and Savior on Oct. 14, 2014 while at home surrounded by his loving family. Kay graduated from Bellingham HS in 1950, and enlisted into the U.S. Army in 1951, serving in the Korean War as a combat medic. In 1953, he came home to marry the love of his life, Janet (Hallman) LeMaster at First Christian Church in Bellingham, and they started a family. In 1958, he graduated from WWU with a Master's Degree in education. He then taught and coached in Washougal, WA for 9 years, at Meridian, then for one year in Mt. Vernon. For his remaining years, he was a teacher, coach and athletic director for the Nooksack Valley School District.

Kay loved all sports, fishing, gardening, visiting historical sites, and coaching. In 1974, he was named "Coach of the Year", and in 2003, the Kay LeMaster Gymnasium at Nooksack Valley HS was named in his honor.

The most important thing in Kay's life was spending time with his family. During his retirement years, he and his wife Janet traveled to many historical sites in the U.S., enjoyed any gatherings with his children and grandchildren, and loved all holiday celebrations. His walk with the Lord was also very important to him.

Kay is preceded in death by his parents Crede & Dorothy LeMaster; sisters

Louise Knabe and Bernice Snow; and son-in-law Mark IsFeld.

Kay is survived by his wife, Janet LeMaster of Lynden; daughters Kelly IsFeld of Everson, Kathy (Tom) Alexander of Blaine, and Lisa LeMaster of Lynden; grandsons Wade (Trina) Gardner of Everson and Todd (Tanya) Visser of Everson; granddaughter Kari (Josh) Gardner of Everson; sister-in-law Joann Brackinreed of Ferndale; nephews Theron (Roselie) Brackinreed of Ferndale and Steven (Tracy) Brackinreed of Lynden; great-grandchildren Austin, Chloe, Taylor, Landin, Anna, Bailey, Shon, Kestin, Caleb, Aaron and Marley; and his beloved kitty Duke.

There will be a private military burial at Greenacres Memorial Park, and in loving memory of my wonderful husband, there will be a public Celebration of Life at Nooksack Valley HS in the Kay LeMaster Gymnasium on Sat., Oct 25 at 2:00 PM. Refreshments and social sharing will follow in the Nooksack Valley High School Cafeteria.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Seattle Children's Hospital, Christ Fellowship Church in Nooksack, or the Light House Mission. You may share your thoughts and memories of Kay at [www.farewelltributes.com](http://www.farewelltributes.com)

# Tribute Wall

PD

“ *Mr. LeMaster was one of my teachers while teaching at Washougal School District. He was truly one of the best teachers I had and one that your remember with fondness forever. My sympathies to his family.*

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**Peggy (Locke) Dunn** - October 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ *He was one of the kindest and helpful teacher I ever knew in high school. He made a great impression on me.*

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**Bob Holmstrom** - October 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *I remember Kay LeMaster very well. I was in his first class at the Old Washougal High School when I was in the 5th Grade. He was an inspiration to all of his students and probably the best loved of them all. I followed along with him all through High School until Graduation. Although I was not in sports, he was always kind to me, and appreciated my abilities as a dance performer. Difficult for a young boy in a small town. He showed no favoritism, and treated all of his students for who they were, and helped them where he could. He was a great teacher and mentor to many young people.*

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**Jerry Herr** - October 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ My condolences goes out to LeMaster family. I had the pleasure of having him as my driver's ed teacher and that was when I found out what a terrific person/teacher he really was and adored him ever since. He told his class that he met them halfway, if they proved to him that he/she would put an effort he would meet them halfway, and he did. I had that test syndrom where I would fail a test no matter how hard I studied and I had answered a lot of questions during the class so he knew I knew the answers. Even though I failed most of the tests even my final, he still gave me a “C” because he met me halfway. I have never forgotten what he did for me and what a kind heart this man had. I am sure he is going to be greatly missed. RIP Kay and welcome home.

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**Theresa Carrick** - October 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Prayers & condolences sent to coach LeMaster's family & friends. Truly a great husband, father, friend, educator & coach. I'll miss seeing him around the community, getting a hug from him & conversing about our families & life. He had tremendous perspective & cared about his former students & players in a sincere heartfelt manner. Your basketball prowess was never his primary concern, & although he developed many great players/teams, the number of great people he impacted is innumerable.

I know I learned more about playing defense & rebounding from him than any single coach I played for/coached with in a 20 plus year period in those capacities. Many of those lessons also carried over to my current role as a HS & collegiate basketball official.

I remember I couldn't wait for the opportunity to play for him & it was an honor to be coached by him, especially as a member of his final 2 teams as the head man at NVHS circa 1982-83.

Rest in peace coach LeMaster, you'll be missed by many!

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**Corbett Hanson** - October 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM