



LaVelle Edward "Butch" West

August 4, 1955 - April 24, 2025

LaVelle Edward "Butch" West, age 69, passed away peacefully into the arms of Jesus on Thursday, April 24th, 2025, in the presence of his loving family. He was born August 4th, 1955, in La Grande, Oregon, to LaVelle A. "Vel" and Peg (Gruis) West.

Butch spent the first five years of his life in Pullman, WA, with his mom and dad at WSU, where he got his nickname, Butch, after Butch the Cougar mascot. He spent his elementary school years in Raymond, WA, and his junior high and part of his high school years in Auburn, California. He treasured his lifelong friendships with his Auburn friends and loved them with all of his heart. He played freshman and JV baseball, basketball, and football at Placer High School. In his junior year of high school, Butch's family moved to Bellingham, where he attended BHS and participated in football, basketball, and track and field. This is where he met his future wife, Sharon. He attended Wenatchee Valley College in the fall of 1974, where he played football.

Butch and Sharon were married June 12th, 1976, in Bellingham. They were blessed with three children: Timothy, Jessica, and Kelli. Butch's wife, children and their spouses, and his grandchildren were the joys of his life. He was so proud of all of them and loved spending time with them.

Butch worked at Intalco Aluminum as a millwright for many years and made

friends that he cherished forever. He was a deep feeler who wore his heart on his sleeve. He loved connecting with people on a deep level and hearing about their lives.

He is survived by his wife, Sharon; children, Timothy (Jodi) West, Jessica (Adam) Wagner, and Kelli (Jimmy) Nelson; along with his ten grandchildren: Kaden (17), Colbie (15), and Kinley (13) West; Elliott (4), Isaiah (3), and Ada (1) Wagner; Leslie (5), James (4), Madelynn (2), and Lucas (2) Nelson. He is also survived by his brother, Marty (Libby) West; his sister, Cindy (Keith) Willnauer; and many loving nieces, nephews, and in-laws.

Butch's memorial service will be at CTK Bellingham on Wednesday, May 7th, at 11:30 a.m. Memorial gifts may be made to CTK Bellingham Missions or Whatcom Hospice.

Tribute Wall

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“ *My sincere condolences to Butch’s family. I was saddened to hear of his passing. It sounds like he lived a full and meaningful life, leaving behind a loving family and many friends. May his memory be a blessing*

Steven Smith - May 06, 2025 at 12:00 AM

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“ *Love & prayers to Butch’s wonderful family, what an amazing Legacy you created, so much LOVE and Joy in your family... May GOD be WITH you and your family till you MEET again. Love & Sympathy,
Doug & Doneva Froberg*

Doug & Doneva - May 06, 2025 at 12:00 AM