



## Lewis Paul Hays

September 5, 1941 - August 15, 2017

Lewis Paul Hays, age 75, of Bellingham, WA, died Tuesday, August 15, 2017. He leaves behind his wife of 50 years, Vivian (Collins) Hays; their children Jennifer Hays of Tromsø, Norway; Hilary (Hays) Engebretson and her husband Bryant Engebretson of Bellingham, WA; and Joshua Hays and his wife Jesse (Nickerson) Hays of Seattle, WA; Lew's sister Helen Norman of Riverside, CA and his brother Mahlon Pitt of Charlotte, NC; as well as four grandchildren and many, many friends in many different states and countries.

Lewis was born on September 5, 1941 to Geneva Saathoff and Paul Lewis Hays. He attended Edison High School in Tulsa, OK and studied engineering at the University of Tulsa, where he was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity. In 1964, he began working for General Electric and moved to Schenectady, NY in 1965.

In Schenectady, he met and fell in love with Vivian Collins of Swanton, VT at a local ski club. They were married on August 5, 1967. In the years that followed, Lew, Vivian, and their children lived in Schenectady, NY; Cinnaminson, NJ; Davenport, IA; and again in Schenectady. In 1981, Lew accepted a job with Valmont Industries and moved with the family to Omaha, NE. Lew worked for Valmont until his retirement in 1997. In 2001, Lew and Vivian moved to Bellingham to be near their daughter Hilary and their grandchildren. They lived in Bellingham together until his death.

Lew enjoyed traveling, and in particular driving; he and Vivian often drove across the US to visit friends and family, and just to explore. He especially enjoyed going for long drives in his new Mazda Miata with a Washington Miata Club. In recent years, they drove to Clearwater Beach, FL where they spent the winters and connected with family and friends from the various places they had lived.

In the summer of 2016, they rented an RV and traveled with their three teenage grandchildren on a wonderful tour of the National Parks of Arizona and Utah.

They both also enjoyed traveling internationally. Two of Lew's years with Valmont were spent living in France with Vivian. They lived in Vichy, France in 1990, and in Saint-Germain-en-Laye in the Paris suburbs in 1996.

After moving to Bellingham in 2001, they purchased a share in a European-based barge, *Vertrouwen*, and spent two weeks every summer touring the canals of Europe accompanied by friends and family. At the time of Lew's death, they were on their way to spend time on the barge near Strasbourg, France with two other couples, old friends from Schenectady who were also celebrating 50 years of marriage.

Lew had a broad curiosity about life and the world and the universe. He was an avid photographer, an amateur astronomer, and a boat enthusiast.

Lew was a strong Christian and was a member of Christ the King church in Bellingham. He was a cheerful, optimistic person with a wonderful and quirky sense of humor and a spirit of generosity. People responded easily to his outgoing, kind, and intelligent nature, and all of these qualities won him many friends. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Memorial donations can be made in memory of Lew to Christ the King Church  
– Bellingham, WA.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, August 31, 2:00 p.m. at Christ  
the King Church, Bellingham.

# Tribute Wall

KL

“ So sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you.

Kim Landgraf - August 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ What a beautiful tribute to Lew! He will be sorely missed by so many. Our heartfelt sympathy to each of you. Please know that you are in our hearts and prayers. Love, Mike & Judy

Judy Wall - August 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM

IG

“ Dear Vivian, I hope that the memory of your dear Husband, becomes an everlasting treasure. It may help to know that those that care for you hold you close in thought. Thinking of you and your family at this very sad, sad time.  
Irma and Don

Irma Gutknecht - August 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ So sorry for your loss. May the Lord comfort and care for your in the days ahead. Ron & Karen Cameron

Ron & Karen Cameron - August 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ *Lew and I go back to grade school. Grade school, Jr. high, high school, college, Sigma Chi. We were good friends then and now. Summer life-guarding at the Tulsa pools then, and now photography, travelling, barging, a good life with good friends. Lew, I will miss you. Not a day goes by that I don't think I'll send this to Lew. Save a seat for me at happy hour, I'll be there sooner or later.*

*Dennis*

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**Dennis V Hughes** - August 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM