



Thomas R. Rutherford

October 17, 1927 - August 6, 2020

Tom was born in Bellingham, WA to Thomas and Clara (Bruland) Rutherford. He attended Bellingham schools and grew up in the Alabama Hill neighborhood where he picked berries for his mother to make pies and helped his Dad cut firewood. After high school, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps. He was assigned to the Marine Air Division and was a Captain/Crew Chief for a Corsair fighter plane aboard the USS Bairoko. After serving his country, Tom worked at Georgia Pacific as a Chlorine Plant Operator for 45 years before retiring. Once retired, he still felt the need to work and opened up Tom's Sharp Shop in Blaine. He sharpened knives, scissors, etc. for many local businesses and families.

Tom was loving, fun, generous, hardworking, loved his God and loved his family. He had a great voice and could always be heard humming a tune. Tom climbed a 140 foot tall tree to place an American flag on top while no one was around so he wouldn't "worry us". Dad loved his gardens and was constantly working outside, always growing enough vegetables to share with others. He also liked to include the kids when working in the shop, giving us a hammer, nails, and piece of wood so we felt like we were "helping". We will miss his chocolate chip cookies and the ever present twinkle in his eye.

Tom is predeceased by his wife, Dorothy G. Rutherford; wife, Margaret G. Rutherford; son-in-law, Robert E. Pratt; parents, Thomas and Clara

Rutherford; and sisters, Eileen Johnson, Eloise Rutherford, and Phyllis (Don) Wilson.

Survivors include his loving wife, Hazel E. Rutherford; daughters, Delayne K. Pratt, Dori G. (Larry) Fridlund, Dorothy G. (Darryl) Pope, Laura (Steve) Nelson, Toni (Wade) Marlow, and Coleen (Dean) Anderson; sister, Patricia Clark; grandchildren, John (Rose) McCafferty, Thomas (Shandel) McCafferty, Taralyn (Andy) Owen, Apryl (Travis) Breitbach, Sara (Ty) McClellan, Jason Fridlund, Michael Fridlund, Connie Fridlund, Aaron Schwind, Adam (Audrey) Schwind, Andrea (Cody) Harms, Kourtney (Levi) Kough, and Stuart Niblock-Pope; and great-grandchildren, Emily, Luke, Justin McCafferty, Kaylyn Quatsoe, Lance Owen, Lauryn Breitbach, Darion Dyrland, Gage McClellan, Connor Harms, Eloise Schwind, Kyleah Fridlund, Adilyn Fridlund, Ryder Eggelston, and Bristol Keough.

Tom will be laid to rest at Greenacres Memorial Park in Ferndale.

Memorials in Tom's name can be made to Grace Lutheran Church (PO Box 1646 Blaine, WA 98231) or Hogar Irekani, an Orphanage in Morelia, Mexico that Tom and Hazel have a great love for (C/O PO Box 6, Custer, WA 98240).

Tribute Wall

MW

“ Uncle Tom’s passing is the “end of an era”. He kept my Mom’s side of the family connected by his annual “Rutherford Rebellion” summer picnic at his Blaine home by the water. There was softball, potluck food in abundance and lots of coffee to keep the Norwegians chatting away in Tom’s manicured park-like setting. We all have such fond memories of those days, now carried on by his daughter Dorothy. A good man will be missed.

Melinda L Wilson - August 24, 2020 at 12:00 AM