



## Merlin Hopp

July 22, 1931 - February 17, 2023

On Friday, February 17, 2023, Merlin Hopp passed away at the age of 91. He was a resident of Colonial Vista, Wenatchee, WA. Merlin was born July 22, 1931 in Dryden, WA to Conrad and Rosalia Hopp.

Merlin was the consummate story-teller of the family, his life and adventures were legendary, he had cheated death over 30 times. He said he had a life well lived. He was an Eagle Scout and later a scoutmaster in Cashmere. He graduated from Cashmere High School in 1949 and attended Wenatchee Valley College and Washington State College. As a young adult he bought a Piper Cub airplane with his boyhood friend, Paul Kyner. They had all kinds of adventures flying around the state. Merlin was an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard, serving 3 years during the Korean Conflict, he was stationed in the Hawaiian territories and at the then new LORAN station at Cape Blanco, Oregon. After meeting Beverly Kohagen on a blind date, they eloped 36 days later on April 14, 1956. Some people thought it wouldn't last but they remained faithful companions for 62 years, that ended only by Bev's passing in 2019. He was a man of various talents, an orchardist, carpenter and entrepreneur, farming apples and pears, building and remodeling houses, and one-time owner of Rusty's Drive Inn.

They raised two daughters, Lisa and Susan. He was a fan of the Cashmere Bulldogs while his daughters were in school and he was very active in the

Lions Club and served as president. Merlin and Bev enjoyed traveling to the Lion's Conventions in Washington and Canada. They traveled across the western states and especially enjoyed visiting our state and national parks. They also took an adventurous trip along the Al-Can Highway. He was an avid fisherman and most recently a fan of Gonzaga Basketball.

Merlin was preceded in death by his wife, his parents, and his sister, Inez Scribner. He is survived by daughters Lisa (Mike Robinson), Sue (Brad Nakaji), grandchildren Sarah (Matt), Kat (Graham), Meredith (Peter), Erin, and James; and two great-grandchildren Lily & Rider.

There will not be a funeral. Colonial Vista will hold a short memorial for residents. Bev and Merlin requested that their ashes be joined and scattered in the ocean off Depoe Bay.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Fund or charity of your choice. <https://www.cgmahq.org/donate/memorial.html> Chapel of the Valley is in charge of arrangements.

Arrangements by Chapel of the Valley, East Wenatchee.

# Tribute Wall

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“*Merlin and I were best buddies when we were little and we were always in trouble. There was only 2 years difference in our ages. My brother and I spent most of our childhood years at his house. On one occasion we found his Dad's wine stash and had to be put to bed. On another occasion we were at his Grandmother's house and found some paint and painted her house in all kinds of colors. We rode our bikes together, went to school together played together and got a lot of whippings together. Aunt Rose's house was where all the kids stayed. Just lately we had been talking a lot about our younger days and having a good laugh about all the things we had did as kids. Rest In Peace Merlin. Your cousin Bernice.*”

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**Bernice Whisenand** - February 26, 2023 at 12:06 PM