



## Herman Ward Raap

November 27, 1944 - May 3, 2026

Herman Ward Raap passed away on the morning of May 3rd in the comfort of his home. He was 81 years old.

Ward was born on November 27, 1944 at home in Ellensburg, the second child of Gus and Marge Raap. He attended the Denmark School, Kittitas Elementary school, Ellensburg Jr. High and High School, graduating in 1963. Ward had military training at Ft Ord, CA and served 6 years in the Army reserves as a cook; he was an accurate shot with a rifle. He married his high school sweetheart, Barbara (Bender) Raap on January 16, 1965. Ward was raised on a farm in Kittitas County and farmed most of his life in Grant County. Ward farmed on the Royal Slope with his dad and then on the Frenchman Hills, and finally purchased land near the Columbia gorge in 1983 and farmed with his second son Randy until his retirement in 2019. Besides spending time tinkering in his shop, Ward loved to dance; he and Barbara spent many years dancing at the George Community Hall, and other venues throughout their 61-year marriage. Ward enjoyed retirement and relaxing in his backyard watching wildlife.

Ward is survived by his wife, Barbara (Bender) Raap; oldest son Steven (Larysa) Raap; daughter Carla Louise (Joe Peck) Christian; and youngest son Michael (Lucinda) Raap; four granddaughters, Kimberly, Bryanna, Makayla and Autymn Raap; one great grandson, Ryan; four brothers: Louis (Wanda) Raap; Don Raap; Larry (Melanie) Raap; Kenny (Robin) Raap; and two sisters-in-law, Carol (Bender) West, Debi (Bender) Humphrey and a brother-in-law

James Russell (Laurie) Bender, several nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by his parents, second son, brothers in law, Richard Stilwell and Paul West and sister-in-law, Dixie (Bender) Stilwell.

Thanks to the Hospice team.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are under the care of Kayser's Chapel of Memories.

# Tribute Wall

EB

“ Our most sincere condolences to the family of Joe. We know of his long legacy through his daughter Carla Louis, our beloved friend of our family. Blessings on all the family and to all who share a lifetime of good memories with Joe. Tom, Emily, Erick and Mia Borling

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**Emily Borling** - May 07 at 08:30 AM

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*I have such fond childhood memories of Ward. Ward was always so kind. My brother and I had some rip roaring baseball games at the Raap's. It was always fun. I loved Gus and Marge and all 5 of the Raap Boys. Special blessings to all of Ward's Family. I hope I get to attend his memorial service.*

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**Chris Sorensen Rosbach** - May 15 at 04:03 PM