



Howard "Ben" Graffis, Jr.

February 10, 1930 - October 30, 2013

Howard Welty (Ben) Graffis, 83, a resident of Ephrata, Washington, passed peacefully Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2013, surrounded by what meant most to him – his family. A Memorial Mass will be held at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, Ephrata, WA at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, November 15, 2013.

He was born in Okanogan, Wash. on February 10, 1930 to Howard and Mary Jane Graffis.

Ben spent his early years serving in the United States Army and was a decorated hero in Korea.

He met and married the love of his life, Grace (Mikki) Ribble in 1980.

Ben was known by many for his coaching and involvement in Ephrata's Little League program. He always had a good joke and a song. Ben worked at KULE radio for 40 years.

He is survived by his wife, Grace (Mikki) Graffis; brother Bill (Della) Graffis; sister Martha (Ray) Jensen; daughter Kate (Jack) Brantner; sons Dan and Bryan Ribble, Nick, Zack, Bill, Ben and Frank Graffis; grand-daughters Marybeth Sexton, Caylyn Graffis, Paisley Ribble; great granddaughter Amanda and great grandson Justin Malloy; great-great grandson Ethan; and 11 other grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews.

Ben was preceded in death by his parents; son Jim; granddaughters Deborah and Jennifer.

Services are being planned and will be announced when set. Please sign the online guestbook or leave a note for the family at www.kayserschapel.com

Arrangements are in care of Kayser's Chapel & Crematory, Moses Lake.

Previous Events

Service

NOV 15. 1:00 PM (PT)

St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church (Mass)
560 Southeast Blvd.
Ephrata, WA

Tribute Wall



“ Dear Mikki, Jay and I were saddened to hear about Ben's passing. However, we all know what a tough journey he had over the last couple of years. Ben was blessed to have you Mikki ~ you were so good to him and cared for him until the end. That says a lot about you as a person and a loving wife. Take care of yourself now and know that Ben is finally at peace. Love and hugs, Carmen & Jay##imported-begin##Carmen & Jay White##imported-end##

November 26, 2013 at 06:58 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Ben's passing. I was blessed with an opportunity to work with him for nearly ten years at KULE. His knowledge of the area and the radio industry was a vast resource that I would draw on often. Him and I would always have good laughs while writing or recording radio commercials and he always had a good joke, or comical experience to brighten my day. I was sad when we were no longer able to work together and even more sad now that he has gone to be with the Lord. I know that I will see him again soon and that he will probably (hopefully) greet me the same way he did every morning at the radio station. My deepest sympathies go to the entire family during this time.##imported-begin##Zach Kellams##imported-end##

November 14, 2013 at 10:40 PM



“ Ben made such a positive impression on my childhood, and has been a figure I've respected my entire life. He was always one of my favorite people growing up, and my memories of him are ones of utter happiness.

Dear Mikki, I am so sorry for your loss. Ben was a wonderful person, and I know you are a shining reflection of his goodwill and joy of life. I miss you both terribly.##imported-begin##Lacey Jo Goeden##imported-end##

November 12, 2013 at 02:31 PM



“ Mikki,
We wish to express our sincere sympathies to you & the boys on the loss of Ben. He was one of the greatest men we ever met. He will truly be missed by all. God bless your family.
Love,
Dan & Laurie##imported-begin##Dan & Laurie Dornan##imported-end##

November 10, 2013 at 08:34 PM



“ Ben was a good man, a good friend, and an excellent salesman. We knew him through the Church, Knights, and as a customer of his KULE ads. He always had time to visit, and help me solve the problems of Grant County and the world. A visit from Ben brightened every day. I also enjoyed stories of his Army days and his interesting exploits throughout his life.

Some of our best radio ads were with Ben asking questions about real estate, and me answering them. The "Bob and Ray" act. We had a lot of fun at those and most everything we did. He also joined in with the "back room guys" for Friday at Four, when he had time to have a good visit.

Ben and Mikki were a good matching pair. We offer Mikki our condolences, and expect to see Ben again some day.

The Weitzels; Jim, Dorothy, J A, Paul, Randy, Mike, Brian, and Becky.##imported-begin##Jim and Dorothy Weitzel##imported-end##

November 08, 2013 at 03:15 PM



“ Ben was a great man. He was a kind, caring man who loved baseball and the kids who played it. He was an asset to Ephrata and he will be truly missed! Hugs to Mikki~##imported-begin##Julie Herr Saunders ##imported-end##

November 06, 2013 at 12:22 AM



“ Ben Graffis,

What a great guy! I will never forgot my relationship with him, and Miki. Ben made some of my favorite years in youth baseball that much better. Great sense of humor and always made me smile. That relationship continued on which made it even better and always good to see Ben. I'll miss him. Take care Mik.

Jim Forrest###imported-begin##Jim Forrest###imported-end##

November 01, 2013 at 10:20 AM