



James "Mel" Bradley

August 24, 1939 - July 9, 2023

James "Mel" Bradley, an unwavering pillar of love for his family and friends, passed away in his home of over 40 years on Sunday, his wife with him in his final Earthly moments.

The oldest son of James and Marie Bradley, Mel was born August 24, 1939, and worked from an early age to support his family. He took on his role as oldest son with fortitude, dedicated to the happiness and wellbeing of his parents and siblings alike. When Mel was a kid, the family moved from Arkansas to California where he would eventually meet Barbara Mendenhall, who became his wife in 1959.

With Barbara and a new daughter in tow, Mel moved to Washington in 1962 and made their home in Moses Lake. Their son, born five years later, completed the family unit. The life Mel built with Barbara was a full one, filled with fishing; camping trips; careers in truck driving and, later, motorcycle mechanics. Throughout his life, he remained dedicated to his family as it expanded to include much loved sisters and brothers-in law and eight nieces and nephews. He was an unwavering family man.

Mel's humor and goodwill were woven into every action, whether at work, home, or the hobbies he chose for himself or pursued with his wife. For years Mel and Barbara were members of UMCI, a motorcycle club for members

over 40. With many treasured friends sharing the road, the two traveled deserts, mountains, covering as much terrain as possible, no matter the weather.

In 2005, Mel and Barbara retired to Arkansas, where he spent time raising chickens, taking walks with his dog, Duke, and enjoying a return to his birthplace. There, he was a member of the Church of Christ and dedicated hours to his church and, most importantly, his faith. In 2022, Mel and Barbara returned to Moses Lake, and the home they had left nearly two decades prior, where he had the opportunity to reconnect with long missed family and was able to meet and spend time with his great-grandchildren. Even in his final days, you could find him in his reclining chair, a beloved great-granddaughter on his lap.

Mel joins his mother and father, who preceded him in death. He lives on in his wife, Barbara; his siblings, Louise, Vaughn, Bernice, and Katherine; his children, Vickie and Mel Jr. (Veronica); his grandchildren, Rachel, Justin, Brandon (Ashley), Preston (Crista), Harley, and Hayden; and eight great-grandchildren.

His loss is deeply felt by the family who have not before gone a day without his love. We know that “never again will this happiness return just this way,” at least not on this Earth, but we will remember him, and our shared happiness, always.

Tribute Wall

PM

“ *Barb and family thinking of you, remembering the great times we have enjoyed...*

Paul Manor - July 23, 2023 at 05:41 PM

WC

“ *So sorry for your loss Bradley family, condolences from the Christensen family to yours brothers and sisters of the trucking world. Much love and respect, ride on Mr Bradley ride on.
Wayne Christensen*

Wayne Christensen - July 18, 2023 at 06:34 PM

WG

“ *Mel and Veronica,
I am so sorry for your loss. I know how happy you were to bring your mom and dad back home to be close to family. You spoke so highly of both of them and the joy you showed while speaking of them joining you here was so clear.
Please know we are praying for you and your family in this tender time.
Dale and Wendy*

Wendy Gies - July 13, 2023 at 11:22 PM

 Judy Pippins

“ *I am Mel and Barbara's neighbor just across the Street from them. I always enjoyed talking with Mel as my neighbor. His absence will be greatly missed. My heartfelt condolences to Barbara and his whole family. R.I.P. Mel.*



Judy Pippins - July 13, 2023 at 08:47 PM

GK

“ Will always remember the rides, rallies, campouts and Halloween Parties. Those were the days.
Rest in Peace Mel and our condolences to the family.

George & Kathy - July 13, 2023 at 10:16 AM

KB

“ Mel and Barb started me out in the Umci motorcycle club and I am so grateful to have known Mel he was a kind and gentle man always positive. We road to Sturgis with Mel and Barb and Harvey and Deloris it was one of the greatest times of my life. So much more to say about Mel he was truly one of a kind. Love you Mel. We have truly lost a good man and friend.our sincere condolences to the family.

Kevin Besel - July 12, 2023 at 11:19 PM

TM

“ Our deepest sympathies to Barb and family. We shared many happy weekends motorcycling and camping with Mel and Barb. He was such a nice man.

Ted and Judy Mason - July 12, 2023 at 09:37 PM

TW

“ Heartfelt condolences to Barbara and the whole family. So many memories and so much fun on the road on the bikes and in camp in our Kwik Kamp trailers. At times we appeared to be a small town of Kwik Kamps. Back in the age of innocence and spontaneous fun. So much laughter. "Those were the days, my friend, we thought they'd never end..." It really did seem so at the time.

Tom Wells - July 12, 2023 at 08:31 PM

LC

“ *I have fond memories of Mel, Barbara, Vickie, and of course, Jr.
Their house was always welcoming.*

My sincere condolences to the family.

Lisa Cyr - July 11, 2023 at 09:34 PM