



James "Jim" Bolyard

September 7, 1933 - January 13, 2017

James B. Bolyard of Warden, passed away on January 13, 2017 at his home at the age of 83 from acute leukemia.

Jim was born in Garfield, WA on September 7, 1933 to James L. and Gaie (Trimble) Bolyard. He grew up in the Columbia Basin area and graduated from Coulee City High School in 1952. He took a job building the new high school in Garfield where he met Karen Johnston.

He was drafted into the Army and served in Korea in F Company, 63rd Infantry Regiment, 6th Infantry Division.

After he came home from Korea, he returned to Whitman County to work for his cousin Gene Marple who was a spray pilot. Here he learned and loved to fly.

He married Karen Johnston on November 17, 1956 in Spokane, WA. They had celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary just before Thanksgiving this year with their children and their families.

During the early years of their marriage Jim, Karen and family lived in Ephrata, Odessa and Coulee City. Among the jobs he worked, Jim worked for Boeing as a member of the crash crew in Moses Lake.

They moved back to Whitman County where he worked for J.E. Love Co., Oakesdale Implement, Arrow Machinery, Alan Wride, Ed-Ka Manufacturing and the City of Garfield.

During the 1980's he was a member of a 4 piece country western band know as The Sun Downers. Jim was the lead guitarist and the band played mostly in Deary, ID although they played local weddings, anniversaries and birthdays. They later changed their name to the Silver Creek Band.

They moved to Lind, WA where Jim went to work for T-16 Ranch and worked there until he retired. He then became a rural route carrier for the Columbia Basin Herald where he carried papers for 19 years, up to the time of his illness and death.

Jim loved to visit with people. He would share jokes and stories, tell tales of his life's experiences. He was very knowledgeable of the history of the areas in which he lived and enjoyed talking with people about what he knew. He enjoyed fishing the St. Joe River and Dworshak Reservoir in Idaho and the many lakes in the Pot Holes area.

Jim is survived by his wife Karen (Johnston) Bolyard and 5 children: Ken and Sarah (Hougland) Bolyard, Richard and Vanessa (Bolyard) Gimlin, Teresa Bolyard, Scott and Carmen (Fealy) Bolyard and Steve and Nannette (Mearns) Bolyard. He has 11 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

The family will celebrate his life at a gathering later in the year when the weather permits better travel. All of his family and friends will be invited to this event. Please go to www.kayserschapel.com to share your thoughts and stories with the family of how Jim touched your life.

The family wishes to thank Dr. Tucker and Dr. Quinn, the Assured Hospice of Moses Lake staff and Kayser's Chapel and Crematory for their help and support through this most difficult time.

Tribute Wall



“ *The greatest gift I ever had, came from God, I call him Dad.*

Vanessa Gimlin - February 20, 2017 at 11:53 PM



“ *He always made me smile and the best memory is of a easter that we spent over there urine my younger days. He will be forever loved and always missed!*

Kyle Brie - January 21, 2017 at 01:30 AM



“ *I grew up in oakesdale as Kathy Wade I remember spending a lot of time with the Bolyard family they are an amazing family and I am so sorry for their loss*

Kasy Clevenger - January 15, 2017 at 02:02 AM



Thanks Kasy for your memories and kind words. Dad always had fun kindling around with you and Vanessa.

Ken Bolyard - January 19, 2017 at 03:44 PM



“ *Ken, so sorry to hear about your dad. He was so important to our family and to Garfield!! He gave me my first ride on a Harley Davidson (in Tekoa at Slippery Gulch Days). He went above and beyond as the City Guy in Garfield! He came when called to bail me and my wife out when our car lost it's water pump in Othello, drove us to Pasco, so we could rent a car and continue on our trip! He was the best and he will be missed!*

daymon marple - January 14, 2017 at 06:12 PM

KB

“ Remember living in Elberton when I was kid. We'd had a grass fire that day, dad and I were putting out hot spot at around dusk when he sent me back to get a rake for him. As I walked back with the rake I could hear him talking with someone. At that point I heard a buck snort and he gave out a load yell. When I found him, he was sitting on a tree stump, breathing hard trying to settle down.

What had happened was after I left a doe, being curious as to what dad was doing and being cautious also had quietly walked up behind him trying to smell out what he was. Dad apparently heard her and thought it was me. The doe must have been only a few inches from him when he turned thinking it was me trying to scare him and yelled. Well the doe snorted, dad yelled all heck broke lose.

I never seen him so white with fright. I couldn't stop laughing and he got a little mad then realized how funny the whole thing was. We laughed all the way back to the house and told mom the story. She didn't seem to see the humor. We did!

Ken Bolyard - January 14, 2017 at 03:28 PM

DE

Ken, your Dad connected a sewer pipe for town of Garfield to my parent's property. Seeing the line dead-ended about 10 ft up the hill, your said, " Well, that's ok. No house a up there anyway. About 4 years later, I put our new home "up there".

We'd been in the house about a year when all the sudden our sewer lines wouldn't drain anymore. Norm Jones came & found our line connected to the city but the city line wasn't connected near Mom's backyard. We had been dumping our sewage into Mom's backyard for about a year!!! We all had a good laugh once the sewer got fixed!!!
Dana & Shelley Elder

Dana Elder - January 14, 2017 at 07:37 PM

HG

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Hannah Gimlin - January 14, 2017 at 02:53 PM

SA

“ *My grandpa passed away yesterday. Not many people get to say they had John Wayne for a grandfather, but i think I got pretty close. I was fortunate enough to get to spend a few days with him before he passed and I got to hear a few more of his stories before he was gone. I don't think I could ever tire of listening to his voice. If I could bottle up the essence of everything that's made me happy in life up to this point, that would probably be a main ingredient. He loved his grandchildren, and watching him interact with my nieces over thanksgiving I know he loved his great-grandchildren, too. I'll miss you so much Grandpa, you were the last true cowboy.*



sarah - January 14, 2017 at 02:22 PM

TB

This is Beth's post not Sarah's. 😊

Teresa Bolyard - January 14, 2017 at 04:04 PM

TB

“ Thanks Teresa for letting me know. I have been watching your posts lately. Dad and I were reminiscing last week of our time working with your Dad. I learned so much from your dad, not just mechanics. He always treated me well, never as the spoiled bosses kid I was. We became friends working together. He made me laugh every day with his stories. Dad mentioned last week He was the best employee he ever had, but more importantly, a good friend. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers. Let us know about plans for his memorial service.

Teresa Bolyard - January 14, 2017 at 02:11 PM

SA

“ Sarah lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Bolyard



sarah - January 14, 2017 at 02:08 PM

TI

“ I didn't get to see you a lot but you were always kind to me Uncle Jimmy. This was from Thanksgiving of 2015 with his Brothers Ronnie, Jimmie, And Billy



Tia - January 14, 2017 at 12:22 PM