



## William Dean Fode

August 14, 2023

William Dean Fode (Billy) of Moses Lake, Washington, left this world on August 14, 2023, at the age of 60. To have known Billy was to know this: he was loving and kind, faithful, generous and mischievous with friends, deeply devoted to family, loyal to the Mariners, Seahawks, Zags and Kraken, dedicated to helping those in need, intrepid in travel, and always available to prepare a meal (in the kitchen or on the grill), mix a drink, mow the lawn, play Bingo, share a laugh, and hold a hand. Those who loved Billy love him still and, while he left far too soon, the sights and sounds of his living will be remembered and cherished until we are with him again.

Billy was born in Ritzville and grew up in nearby Lind. As a proud Lind Bulldog, he played baseball, football, tennis, and basketball. (He was a phenomenal basketball dribbler, so it is said.) Billy graduated from Eastern Washington University in 1987 with a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology. His education, coupled with his innate empathy and compassion, served him well in his lifelong work as a therapist and crisis first responder. At Renew Behavioral Health, Billy had work that was meaningful and rewarding and co-workers that he considered to be family.

There can be no doubt that the foundation, the center, the best of Billy's life was his family. Rare is a love story like that of Billy and Suzi. They met when he was in 1st grade and she was in kindergarten. At the age of 5, Suzi Bischoff declared, "I'm going to marry him one day." And so she did, on June 29, 1985. For more than 38 years, they grew their life and family and

community together, completed each other, were each other's refuge and home, and kept their soulmate promises of today and forever. In 1990, they welcomed daughter Randilyn Bethe, the biggest Daddy's girl there ever was. And in 1993, son Jordan Dean bounced into their lives and has not stopped bouncing since. Several dogs joined the household over the years, joyfully and gratefully witnessing the enduring love of the Fode family.

Billy is missed the most by: his best friend and love of his life Suzi, daughter Randi Gill, of Moses Lake, son Jordan Fode (Deanna Vanlue) of Long Beach, California, son in law Rick Gill of Moses Lake, mother Marin Elliott Fode of Shoreline, Washington, sister Kim Lobe (John) of Bothell, Washington, brother in law Jim Bischoff (Tina) of Kennewick, Washington, beloved nieces and nephews Brooks Lobe, Mikaela Edwards (Tyler), Alexa Bischoff, and Brandon Bischoff, Suzi's loving family Gary Kuhn, Stacy Jo Kuhn, Stephanie Breckon, Robbi Houser, and Nic Kuhn, and many dear friends. Billy was preceded in death by his father, Edwin Dean Fode.

Heaven only knows where Billy is now. Perhaps he is the head groundskeeper for the field of dreams. Or the brightest winking star in the night sky. Welcome him when he visits your memory, when you imagine him sitting next to you, when you hear his voice through the quiet. Be happy. That is what Billy would want.

A celebration of life will be held at the Grant County Fairgrounds 4H Building, in Billy's honor on September 14, 2023 at 2pm. In lieu of flowers, donations in Billy's name can be made to New Hope/Kids Hope to support the work of the agency's courthouse facility dog, Valor.

# Previous Events

## Service

SEP 14. 2:00 PM.

Grant County Fair Grounds

# Tribute Wall

“First, my condolence. Second, I am not from Lind, but my Aunt and Uncle Sylva & Fred Beck and all my family including the Irby’s and the Longmeir’s. My aunt Sylva used to set up play dates for my sister and I when we were younger. I remember going to Bill’s house to go play tennis with his sister Kim...we were all around the ages of 8-10 at that time. This was the first time I met Bill Fode and he was just sitting in the chair when we came to get Kim...I was about 10 at that time and I just thought he was a sulky boy and he must of thought my sister and I were weird for even coming down to play tennis with Kim. My sister and I were playing with our new rackets from the Will’s General Store. And Kelli and I were both terrible at tennis and so that was the end of the play dates.

Six years later in the Summer of 1980 my mom sent me down to Lind for the whole summer...I didn’t want to go as I had “big plans” for my summer before Senior year in Spokane...nonetheless it was hard to not go when Sylva & Fred came to get me to take me down to Lind. I figured I’d escape after the first weekend...somehow I’d get out of Lind and get back to Spokane. However, the first night I was there with my best friend we were sitting out on the front porch while my Aunt got ready to go to the Phillips party to see their new house and all...we were sitting on the porch and two guys rode by on motorcycles...one of them, Kreg Koch, saw us out of the corner of his eye and went back around to come say “hi”...man, I’d had a crush on Kreg since the summer of ‘77 and there he was talking to myself and my friend. The other guy on the motorcycle with Kreg came up behind him, and it was Bill Fode. My friend and I were just happy to see that we were immediately making friends. I don’t remember much more after that point because I had just met “Kreg Koch” — I didn’t recognize Bill because he obviously wasn’t that ten-year old anymore so I just let that go out of my mind. Kreg and I dated the whole Summer of 1980 and it wasn’t until we got back together 34-years later. Kreg then reminded me that the other guy on the motorcycle was Bill Fode. So, what I learned about Bill after Kreg and I reunited was that Bill Fode had been Kreg’s tennis partner and one of his best friends and I could tell when Kreg talked

*about their friendship and times they spent playing sports and how Kreg helped move Bill up to EWU the summer of our graduation 1981. Anyway, just wanted to put my two cents in and say that Kreg and Bill seemed to be great friends in high school and that Kreg loved him. We both want to offer our condolences and apologize for not attending the service and we offer our deepest sympathy and condolences to Bill Fode's family and to the town of Lind, Wa for the loss that they all feel by losing someone that seemed to be so part of the community, including Moses Lake. As I said earlier my family were some of the earliest settlers in Lind...so I have always had a connection to Lind and so by those standards I feel like I know Bill.*



*Lisa Larrick & Kreg Koch*



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**Lisa Larrick** - October 03, 2023 at 07:43 PM

RW

“ I was new to LHS in 1975, a transplant from nearby Warden WA. I remember Bill was the one of the trainers on the football team. I recall once when I asked for a towel after a 3-hour brutal coach Shea practice (no water allowed) and Bill got up in my grill and told me to "get it myself!" I remember thinking that this kid has spirit and I like him! I can remember a few nights on DSR when he had that black 1979 Monte Carlo with Peter Frampton cranked up...we had no cares. I believe he played mixed doubles in tennis and was tough competitor, making it to, at least, district playoffs one year. I worked with Bill and got between him and an angry Ray Fode more than once at Union Elevator (Schrag). I always admired his courage in all situations as I am sure others can verify. My heart breaks for Suzi and family.

Reid Weaver

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Reid Weaver - September 13, 2023 at 07:29 PM

JO

“ When I moved to Lind my freshman year Billy was one of those guys that just excepted people at face value. I remember my freshman year playing basketball with him and yes, he was a pretty good dribbler, but more so very unselfish. He was definitely a jokester and always had a very kind heart. I did get the privilege of riding in his Mach 1 mustang and that was something I will never forget. I wish that I would have kept in contact with Billy and Suzi and I have no excuses for not keeping in contact. After high school, obviously our lives went in different directions. It does not surprise me that he touched so many peoples lives. That's just the kind of person he was. Billy, you will be missed, but never forgotten. To Suzi stay strong, lean on those that love you know that you will always be in my families thoughts and prayers. Love you The O'Bleness Family



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Jeff O'Bleness - September 10, 2023 at 10:16 AM

JO

“ I moved to Lind my freshman year and I can say that Billy was one of the most genuine people I met my first year there. I remember playing basketball with him and I can confirm he was a pretty good dribbler. I can't remember when Billy and Suzi started dating but I know when they did it was as though they belong together and I'm glad that they had all those years to spend together and have a family. Those three years I had in high school with Billy I will always remember how generous he was letting me ride in that Mach 1 mustang. He always seem to accept people at face value and I can appreciate that. I look back and wish that I had kept in contact with him. I moved on in my life and I knew he moved on with his life, and when he married Suzi, it was no surprise to me or to anyone. It's times like this I wish I would've stayed in contact with Billy and Suzi. Thank you Billy, for always being a kind heart and a genuine person and one day we'll see each other again brother. Suzi, I know you're strong enough to get through this. My heart goes out to you. I can say this, he will never be forgotten. God bless you.

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**Jeff O'Bleness** - September 09, 2023 at 10:00 AM

LH

“ I had the privilege of working 20 years with Bill and very quickly our two families became lasting friends. We called one another “family”. We played together a lot creating memories that will carry into eternity as well as always being there for each other through life's not so fun times. Bill was a stellar husband to Suz, the BEST dad, a wonderful son and brother, and the type of friend everyone should be fortunate enough to have in their life. You were a loving, hardworking, compassionate, FUN, kind, man of faith Bill Fode. The Humphrey family will forever treasure our time together until we meet again dear friend.

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**Leanne Humphrey** - August 28, 2023 at 10:25 AM

JW

“ I met Bill when I first moved here from So. Ca. I was new and started work at Grant Mental Healthcare as soon as I got here. Bill made me feel welcomed and always had such a great smile! Randy and our daughter Jocelynn were best friends and Jordan and Jacob playing baseball and so we were blessed to have Suzi and Bill in our lives that way too. He was always there to help you and it was never about him but how could he help you. He is gone way to soon! God picks the most beautiful souls to take with him. He loved his good food for sure! And when you hear the name Bill it's usually Bill & Suzi, it was one name. Suzi, Bill will be watching over you forever and Jordan and Randy, your dad will continue to keep watch over you and hug you in your dreams. Until you all meet again. Love you all!

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**Jackie Wells** - August 25, 2023 at 05:05 PM

PG

“ Billy was my cousin. I remember his red hair, loving pizza, a happy child. He will be missed greatly. A great man and a lovely wife, Suzi. They were meant for each other and have many memories.

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**Phyllis Greenway** - August 24, 2023 at 05:15 PM

DM

“ I started work at Grant Mental Healthcare on April Fool's day 1997. Reyna was vacuuming the hallway and the vacuum quit working. Other coworkers tried to help to figure out why until they saw Bill down the hall. He was twirling the cord he had unplugged from the wall. Loved that man's wicked sense of humor. What a blessing to all who knew him. Gone far too soon but will be remembered long into the future.

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**Dawn Miller** - August 24, 2023 at 03:03 AM

AL

“ I’ve known Billy for over half of my life. He mentored me when I started my career just out of college at Grant Mental Healthcare. He was hilarious and kind and generous ... one of the best. He will be so missed. I am so grateful to have been one of his friends/co-workers and will never forget how he made me feel (like I mattered). My heart goes out to all who have lost this amazing man but especially Suz, Randi and George (inside joke). All my love, Ali

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**Ali Lafontaine** - August 23, 2023 at 03:01 PM

MS

“ I'll never forget you hitting every road sign with an empty beer bottle on the way to Deutschesfest in Odessa. Many years ago and a memory I've never forgotten and still laugh about. Gone too soon Bill but fly high and I'm sure you're smoking the best cigar with a cold pint.

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**Mike Sandmann** - August 23, 2023 at 09:23 AM



“ As a co-worker, he was warm, knowledgeable, generous and candid. As a human, his values were deeply rooted in his family, friends and being present..... His community is feeling a profound loss.....

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**Shawnee Gardner** - August 23, 2023 at 07:59 AM

ES

“ Bill was one of those irreplaceable people. I can't imagine how big of a hole he's left in so many lives, but Bill would not have wanted us to focus on the hole he left, he would have wanted us to figure out how to fill the holes in others. I appreciate his level head, his caring, his genuineness in serving those he served.

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**Eve Schutt** - August 23, 2023 at 02:34 AM