

JOSEPH OREN SCHOENTRUP

April 15, 1947 - December 1, 2021



Joe passed away peacefully, from leiomyosarcoma, on December 1, 2021, at home with loved ones by his side.

He was born in Burlington, WA on April 15, 1947, to Lewis and Marjorie Schoentrup. He grew up in Wenatchee, WA, and attended Wenatchee High School, graduating in 1965. Joe went to Wenatchee Valley College before joining the Navy in 1967.

After serving on Guam, he returned to the Pacific NW and attended Central Washington, graduating in Dec '73. EXPO '74 brought Joe to Spokane. He worked at the Fair, first as "Joe Gondola" then as host/guide "Jose USA" at the US Pavilion. Working at the Pavilion, Joe planned his next great adventure, traveling the country with the American Freedom Train.

Joe met his future wife, Carol Bosch, in Feb '75 and brought her along on the epic journey across America. Jose and Carol B's travels continued with a 5-month tour of Europe in a 1970 VW van, "Brunhilda." They were married in April 1978.

From '78-'82 Joe worked as a Ticket Agent with Cascade and Frontier Airlines.

In spring of '82, Joe's dream of having a food concession at a World's Fair came to fruition in Knoxville, TN with a Petro's Chili & Chips stand. The "Petro" was a big hit at the fair and its success led to a stand at the '84 World's Fair in New Orleans and to a spot in the NorthTown Mall Food Court in Spokane, where Joe and Carol owned and operated their store for 10 years, from Oct '85 to Jan '96.

Many of our faithful customers became good friends and Joe loved sharing stories and laughs with them. At the close of our Petro's store, Joe became a member of the Dupree Building Specialties family for 12 wonderful years!

Together for 47 years, Joe and Carol raised two amazing sons, Todd and Drew. Joe was their #1 fan, cheering them on at many sports games and throughout their careers. Joe adored his grandchildren, Madison and Eli, who brought great joy into his life! He treasured the "being silly" moments with them and loved giving them Eskimo kisses. Grandad will always be an Angel on their shoulders.

Joe will be remembered as a one-of-kind, gentle, caring, kind soul and a joyful man who always had a smile on his face, a laugh in his voice, and something funny to say. Everyone simply loved Joe - he was so easy and fun to talk to and was an incredible storyteller! What set Joe apart was that he was a great listener and always wanted to hear your stories too and he remembered every one of them! Joe's joyful spirit lives on forever in the hearts of family and friends whose lives he so deeply touched.

We offer heartfelt thanks to the doctors, nurses, and staff on the Oncology wing at Deaconess Hospital and to the compassionate staff of Hospice of Spokane for their wonderful care of Joe and support of our family at our time of need.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Dan. He is survived by his wife, Carol, sons Todd (Sarah) and Drew (Erin), sisters Karen (Spud) Grimes and Ann (Donnie) Edwards, mother-in-law Colleen Bosch, sister-in-law Terri (Stuart) Hart, brothers-in-law Bob and Bill Bosch, grandchildren Madison and Eli, nieces Annika, Heather, Elizabeth, Ellie, nephews Adrian, Tyson, Ben and many friends who were his family too.

A funeral Mass to celebrate Joe's life will be held on April 2, 2022, at 11:00 AM at St. Aloysius Church, also available on the church's website Livestream. The reception will follow in Cataldo Hall. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Joya Child & Family Development at joya.org or St. Aloysius Grade School at stalsschool.org.