



John Arnold Balcom

January 13, 1941 - March 22, 2013

JOHN A. BALCOM January 13, 1941 ~ March 22, 2013 John A. Balcom, 72, passed away peacefully at his home in Tumwater, WA on March 22, 2013, surrounded by family. He was born on Jan. 13, 1941 in Spokane, WA to Kenneth and Edith Balcom. His family later moved to the Sacheen Lake area. He graduated from Newport High School in 1959. John worked for the Washington State Patrol Dept. of Commercial Vehicles and Dept. of Transportation of 30 years, retiring in 1998. John married Virginia "Ginger" Williams on March 13, 1977, celebrating 36 years of marriage this month. John was an avid gardener, enjoying the entire process from planting to canning. While the local deer enjoyed his garden as well, he also made sure the squirrels and birds were fed and housed. He was a skilled wood craftsman, finding never-ending joy in tinkering in his shop. Playing cards were his favorite form of entertainment, although he fluctuated on the interpretation of rules, inspiring many hours of good humored debate. His grandchildren were his pride and joy, often traveling long distances to participate in their numerous endeavors and events. John is survived by his wife; his daughter, Lori (Lee) Brower of Layton, UT; his son, John J. Balcom of Olympia, WA; step-daughters, Melissa (Victor) Alarcon of Portland, OR and Rocelle Raven of Olympia, WA; granddaughters, Carly and Kelsey Raitt, Mikaylee Balcom and Carina and Alicia Alarcon; his brother, Charles (Barb) Balcom of Spokane, WA; sister, Gayle (Ed) Cook of Bellingham, WA; sister-in-law, Nancy Balcom of Spokane, WA; sisters, Janet Janssen of Ocean Park,

WA and Susan (Jim) Hughes of Old Town, ID; and his brother, Barney (Sue) Balcom of Newport, WA. He was preceded in death by his brother, Thomas Balcom; and grandson, Nicholas Raitt. Funeral services will be held on Fri., March 29, 2013 at 12:30 p.m. at the Evergreen Memorial Gardens, 1101 NE 112th Ave., Vancouver, WA. Donations may be sent to John's grandsons foundation: Wacky: Warriors Against Cancer in Kids and Young Adults, 801 N 500 W, Suite 200, Bountiful, UT 84010.

Tribute Wall



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Evergreen Memorial Gardens - July 03, 2025 at 03:59 PM



“ John was a great leader for the Washington State Patrol and commercial vehicle enforcement. He and others of his time provided the base for the best commercial vehicle enforcement program in the country. I am proud to have known John and privileged to have worked alongside of him. My condolences to Johns family for the loss of this fine and gentle man.

Mike Weldin - March 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM