



Rodney Ray Leech

September 10, 1949 - December 3, 2024

Rodney Leech passed away peacefully on December 3rd, 2024 at 75 years of age from complications of a chronic illness.

He was born in Sheridan, Wyoming on September 10, 1949, to Arnold L. Leech and Josephine R. Brown Leech. He spent his early childhood years in Sheridan, until the family moved to Oregon in 1961. Rodney had 3 siblings; an older brother David, and 2 younger sisters, Janice and Jody. They lived for a short time in Eugene before moving to Portland where the family home for many years was in the Laurelhurst neighborhood.

Rodney attended Glencoe Middle School, and Washington High School; where he was a member of the State Championship Basketball team. He Graduated in 1968.

He enlisted in the Army shortly after graduation and during the height of the conflict in Vietnam. He was in active combat duty from July of 1969 until July of 1970. His unit was the "Gypsy Bandits" which were part of the 572nd TC stationed in Long Binh. His experiences while serving had a big impact on his life. When he returned home, he attended Portland State University.

Rodney married Kathleen Stephens on December 15, 1975; and they welcomed 3 children, Melinda Leech (Andrew), William Leech, and Spencer Leech (Sara). The family has lived in Milwaukie, Oregon these many years.

Rodney was a gifted woodworker, creating many works of art throughout his life. He worked as a carpenter in remodeling and construction, for others and as a business owner.

Many years were spent coaching his sons in Clackamas Little League and Babe Ruth Baseball; and in Rex Putnam Youth Basketball. He also enjoyed camping, hunting, fishing, bowling, and golf.

A loving husband, father, grandfather and friend; those that knew him best describe him as kind, generous, supportive, authentic, funny, creative, and always the life of the party. He was loved by all that knew him and he will be missed immensely.

Rodney is survived by his brother, his wife, his 3 children, his Grandsons; Braxton Downes, Maddox Downes, and Henry Leech; his Granddaughter, Shiloh Leech; his Aunt Billie King, and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and sisters.

A Funeral Service with Military Honors will be held at 1:00 PM, Tuesday, December 17th at Willamette National Cemetery; Portland, Oregon

Interment at Willamette National Cemetery

Previous Events

Graveside Service

DEC 17. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (PT)

Willamette National Cemetery
11800 SE Mt Scott Blvd
Portland, OR 97086