

## JAMES OWEN HENDERSHOT

Hillcrest Memorial Center

James Owen Hendershot left us in the early hours of September 27. Jim was born March 10, 1945 in Eye, England to Tom J Hendershot and Josephine Bilner. After coming to the US, he was joined by a brother, Kenneth. For a number of years they lived with Granddad and Grandma, and as they grew older with their father. In 1957, Jim gained a stepmother, Arlyn Kendall. Jim attended Kiona-Benton and Kennewick schools, then was drafted to serve in Vietnam. From February 1967 to January 1969, he was an army combat engineer stationed in Hawaii and Japan. Soon after discharge, he met Charlotte (Sherry) Ann Fike. Their first date was on Jim's birthday and they were married July 4th, 1969, celebrating 45 years together this summer. They had two sons, James Arthur in 1972 and Timothy J in 1978.

For a few years Jim worked a variety of farm jobs before hiring on at Lamb-Weston (ConAgra) from which he retired after 32 years with the company. Shortly thereafter, while pruning his backyard tree he fell and broke his back. A stubborn and hard-working individual, he recuperated only to be diagnosed several years later with an aggressive cancer.

Jim took great pride in home and maintained a flawless lawn and flowerbeds...weeds hadn't a fighting chance in his vegetable garden. Always the life of family parties, he took great glee in snooping under the Christmas tree and shaking his presents trying to guess what was inside. Jim played a mean game of chess and enjoyed all kinds of board games, puzzles, and cards along with hunting, fishing, and car races but dearly loved his dogs and 49ers! We remember the fun he brought to any family gathering and especially his creative vocabulary.

Jim is survived by his wife, sons, both mothers and 12 of his fourteen younger brothers and sisters, Kenneth, Mike, Diane, Annette, Sharon and Karen on his father's side and on his mother's, Steve, Diana, Melvin, Jack, Joanne, and Paul. He also leaves behind granddaughters, Britney, Courtney and Jasmine, numerous nieces and nephews, and lifelong friends Charles and Violet Blaine who selflessly stepped in and helped to care for Jim in his final days. Jim is predeceased by his father and siblings Dan and Rose. A memorial service is 1 pm, Sunday, October 19th at the American Legion in Benton City. For online condolences, please visit [www.AskHillcrest.com](http://www.AskHillcrest.com).

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