

Joseph Edwin MURPHY

Joe Murphy and his twin brother Jim were born on Jan. 26, 1940 to Joe Sr. and Lorraine in St. Paul, Minn. In 1946 the family bought a farm in the valley near Kalispell Mont. Joe and Jim attended Half Moon School, a one room school. In 1951 the family moved to Kalispell Mont. They finished grade school at St. Matthews Catholic school. While going to Flathead County High School He worked at the local bowling alley setting pins where they became outstanding bowlers. In Aug. after graduating from Flathead County High School Joe married his high school sweetheart Gerry Heber. In 1959 they moved to Seattle where he worked as a baker and attended college to become a wireman. During this time he was a member of the National Guard and was called upon during the Cuban Crisis. He moved his family back to Kalispell where he worked as a wireman until his 6 year old mentally disabled daughter was denied an education in 1965. At this time Joe was inspired to become a lifelong Democrat by Mike Mansfield a Senator from Mont. who worked very hard to enact already in place laws for the handicapped to have a public education. Joe then brought back his family to Poulsbo Wa. in 1967 so that his daughter could have a proper education. He worked as a wireman out of Local 46 until he went to work at Puget Power as a Sub Station wireman. He was the Business Mgr. for his Lineman Local 77 from 1985 to 1987. He stayed politically active for 40 years. He was Chr. of the Mental Health Mental Retardation Board. He worked on many democratic campaigns, keeping a close eye on the legislature and senate's views so he could help support the disabled and working people's causes. He was Kitsap County Demo Chr. from 1974 to 1978. Then State Chr. until 1981. This year he was the political coordinator for the Kerry, Edwards campaign through his union. Joe was a life long member of the Masonic Lodge and the Shriners.

Joe was very proud to be the father of 4 children. Jim of Bremerton, Teri of Poulsbo, Joe and his wife Debbie of Poulsbo and Bobby of Bremerton, and 2 adopted sons Trung and wife Lana, Tin and wife Trang Pham. Joe is grandpa to 13 grand children, Jackie, Tyler, Joe, Katie, Timmy, Lisa, Patrick, Tommy, Danny, Lynda, Vicky, Jason, and Michelle.

Joe was a wonderful family man and one of the reasons for this was he came from a family of 10 children. His father Joe Sr. moved to Poulsbo and was able to spend 20 years of quality fishing with Joe. His mother Lorraine taught him to be dedicated to his family and have a high work ethic, for which he loved and respected her for.

Along with his father and mother he is preceded in death by his sisters Barbara and Sharon. His 5 sisters Patty and husband Dale Sonstlie, Monica Wright of Kalispell Mont., Kathryn Murphy of Sedro Woolley, Wa., Jacquelyn and Husband Chris Thorsen of Bremerton, Wa., Pam and Larry Wingate of Whitefish Mont., and Mike Hendrix of Poulsbo, Wa. are going to miss their happy brother very much. Joe was always known for his smile and the twinkle in his eye. He never met a stranger and when he reached out his hand in friendship, he also reached out his hand in love and caring. Making this world a better place was very important and he had great faith in everyone. He was instrumental in family members and friends becoming wireman. Whenever there was a need for help he was there. Joe was the mainstay of our family.

Joe and his brother Jim loved to do things together.

Since retiring they had got to spend quite a bit of fun time together. Their faces always lit up when they saw each other. They were on a float plane together somewhere between Sitka and Barnoff Warm Springs, Alaska. Mike Hendrix and Alex Velasco along with many other family members spent 6 weeks searching for them. The people of Sitka were very welcoming, they volunteered their time and resources. This generosity has been very helpful and renewed our faith in humanity.

There will be a memorial to our beloved Joe and Jim for our wives, uncles, brothers sisters, grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews, in-laws and friends at **St. Pauls Episcopal Church**, (700 Callahan) at 11:00 a. m. in Bremerton, Wa. on Nov. 20, 2004.