



Loyal Dean Benham

April 26, 1935 - January 8, 2021

Loyal "Ben" Benham passed away January 8th, 2021 from heart failure in Corvallis, Oregon. Ben was preceded by his beloved wife Millie. He is survived by his sons Tom and Jeff. Ben was a strong, caring supporter of his extended family and lover of the outdoors. Ben was born in northern Minnesota, though he spent most of his youth in Washington state, working on farms and rebuilding cars even before he could drive. Ben and Millie met in Las Vegas while he was stationed at Nellis Air Force Base. When he was transferred to Spain, Millie followed and they were married in Gibraltar. Ben designed and built guidance systems and electronics for jets, rockets, and other aircraft including the SR-71 Blackbird, while in the Air Force and Honeywell Field Service. In 1976, he and the family settled in Los Alamos, New Mexico, where he worked on the particle beam accelerator at Los Alamos National Labs until his retirement.

Ben and Millie headed out in their motor home three days after retirement, traveling throughout the US and Canada, including the Alaskan Highway and Newfoundland where they became supporters of the archeological site of the Colony of Avalon. Between travels, Ben still consulted for Los Alamos where he designed and built the first atom trap. He continued to hike and explore in spite of struggling with Alzheimer's until his passing.

Tribute Wall

SM

“ *Loyal was my mother Hazels' brother. He sent me a small wooden ship from Spain when he was there when I was about ten. I thought he and Millie were married either there or at the Rock of Gibtaltar. Very cool gift which I still have. By the way, when did the Rock of Gibraltar end up 100 miles from the straits and become a penninsula?* ”

Steven A Metz - November 30, 2023 at 05:51 PM

CA

“ *I have lots of memories of you and my Sister. I remember you opening your home for me and my children during a hard time that I was going through. You were wonderful to my children. You took my children and I to so many places. I never knew there were so many places to see. You two were the kindest and most generous people I know. You two were definitely examples of what people should be more like. I am so happy that we all got to share your 50th wedding anniversary in Las Vegas with you two. It was quite the get together and a wonderful way to honor you two. Your home was always open to anyone. I remember you thanking Sissy's mom and mine for having her. At the time I thought, what a wonderful thing to say. Mom thought the world of you and you two were wonderful to her. Our family will always remember that. Know that if it were not for your parents a lot of us would not know each other. I have a kitty carving he made me years ago. I cherish it. I was always so impressed with his carvings and the ability to look at something and build it. I remember having conversations with you and I asked you about Area 51. I asked, ok, Ben are their aliens? You just looked at me and kept talking and never answered my question. So, I think you just did not hear me....haha....I know you loved your sweets and biscuits and gravy and I always made them when you two visited. We know Sissy did not want you to eat a lot of it, but we know the outcome of that...haha. Your boys are very creative, and we know where they get it from. You will be sadly missed as we do Sissy. We know Sissy, Mom, Sam, and other family members were there to greet you home. What a wonderful reunion. I love you boys even though we do not see each other. Know that I loved your Father and Mother more than you will ever know. I have a favorite picture of them but, it is up North in our other place so I can't post it If you remember the t-shirts I had made for them for their 50th anniversary that is the picture. You could always see the love they had for each other and that my dear nephews is a wonderful way to have grown up. My heart hurts for you two. Lots of Love, Aunt Carol (the girls as your mother always said)* ”

Caroline S Appelhans - January 16, 2021 at 03:04 PM

TO

Carol, you should know dad passed wearing that t-shirt you made for the 50th.

Tom - January 17, 2021 at 02:11 PM

BM

“ *Bram And Monica Meehan lit a candle in memory of Loyal Dean Benham*



Bram and Monica Meehan - January 16, 2021 at 02:29 PM

 Candice Fournier

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Candice Fournier - January 15, 2021 at 06:12 PM

AR

“ *Uncle Ben you was a one of a kind great family gentle man, and will live in all our memories . You are with Sissy again and now our guardian angel. I have lots of great memories of you and will also honor them , you have done some great things in life and shared many stories, took us places we never been , shared your home with us when we was going through a change in life , you kept us busy. You and Sissy always made away to make sure we was all ok at anytime, open door always. I will cherish all I can in memory.And Tom and Jeff, know your dad was a one of a kind , I remember going for rides in the Porsche, going to the lab, visiting the Indian resort, going to caverns, grand canyon, going to the house in Utah and meeting more family I didn't know we had. We are a huge family and lots of memories.And your parents made sure it was all possible in any way they could. Love you all .*

Angela Robbins - January 15, 2021 at 03:43 PM

RY

“ I remember visiting my uncle with my mom and younger brother in the 80s Him and Mildred took us in to there home and and gave us a great tour of Los Alamos. He even gave us a little tour of the research area he worked on Lasers at in Los Alamos National Laboratories. It made awesom ed impression on me and solidified my love for all things science. The last I saw him was at the 50th wedding anniversary in Las Vegas with sll my Aunts and uncles sround. The last story he told me of dealing with his work was of his time helping to develop the stealth psint on the SR-71 Blackbird Spy plane. He was a both the shyest person a d yet one of the most outgoing people Ive ever met and I will miss him. Nephew Robert Yantes

Robert Yantes - January 15, 2021 at 12:24 PM

CA

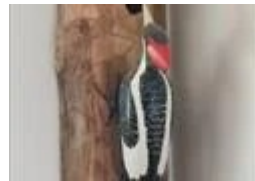
“ Courtney Angermeier lit a candle in memory of Loyal Dean Benham



courtney angermeier - January 15, 2021 at 12:14 PM



“ Will be missed terribly. Had such a full life, I wish there was more time to hear all the stories he had to share.



Carla Girvin - January 15, 2021 at 11:35 AM

HD

“ Ben’s reputation preceded him. I always remember hearing about his savant ability to fix anything that would break down, especially as related to vintage vehicles. I also was privileged to hear him, in his quiet manner, share several of his amazing tales of his days working on airplane engines and other mechanical components. Ben was an artist in other ways as well—as evident in the wonderful wood carvings he created. Those special gifts live on in Tom and Jeff. I feel grateful to know them and to have known both Millie and Ben.



Hope DuBois - January 15, 2021 at 08:30 AM

AR

Rear in heaven uncle Ben , you are back with Sissy and Sam, and many others, You was a wonderful man , I have lots of memories of you and Sissy that will last a lifetime. You both welcomed me and my mom and brother's in our home when we was going through a huge change in our lives . You both kept us busy and helped keep our minds off many changes we was facing when we went back to Ohio. You both was so welcoming to anyone and had a huge heart. You will be missed by many ,you are a guardian angel over us now. I am keeping all the family in my thoughts and prayers ,also know you all are loved .Angela

Angela Robbins - January 15, 2021 at 03:32 PM

JB

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Jeff Benham - January 14, 2021 at 07:58 PM

JC

“ Juliette Cunico lit a candle in memory of Loyal Dean Benham



Juliette Cunico - January 14, 2021 at 06:30 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home and Crematory - January 14, 2021 at 04:30 PM

JB

Love this picture. Miss my friends deeply. They were true and genuine friends.

Jan Bilskie - January 14, 2021 at 08:51 PM

RO

The kindest and most generous couple are back in each other's arms again. We've enjoyed knowing them since the Moab days nearly 50 years ago and all of the time in Los Alamos, both at work and especially as friends. Another silent key.

Roger - January 16, 2021 at 10:44 AM