

Obituaries

William Boland Merrill III

April 22, 1937 – February 6, 2021

William “Bill” Merrill was born in Philadelphia to William and Mary Merrill. His father was an Air Force officer, so Bill and his family moved frequently around the country – and the world – living in Louisiana, Florida, French Morocco, and Wiesbaden, Germany, where Bill graduated from high school.

Friends talked Bill into attending Oregon State College. Bill pledged Delta Tau Delta fraternity, and participated on the crew team and ROTC. After graduating in 1959, he was commissioned as an officer in the US Army.

While stationed at Ft. Lewis, he met Jacqueline Phillips, a nurse, on a blind date. That successful first date led to a 55-year marriage. Bill and Jacque soon welcomed son, Bill, and daughter, Kelli, to the family. Meanwhile, Bill served as a Green Beret in Vietnam. After returning to the states, the family moved numerous times as Bill rose through the ranks, including assignments in Hawaii, Alabama, Kansas, Germany, and Washington, D.C. The family had many adventures camping, hiking, and skiing throughout Europe and the U.S.

After 29 years of service, Bill retired as a Colonel. He and Jacque moved to Oregon, living in Sunriver and Bend before settling in

Sisters. Bill became an avid fly-fisherman, learning to make his own rods and tie flies. The Deschutes and Metolius rivers became second homes. Bill also served on the Sisters City Council, helping provide direction for the City’s growth.

Bill was proud of his service to his country and local community; he felt it was important to be involved. Bill was also proud of his children (both followed in his footsteps to OSU, and Kelli served in the Army), and especially fond of his grandkids: Ben, Griff, Abby, Aaron and Nick. Bill’s legacy is instilling in his kids and grandkids a love of travel, the outdoors, and service to others.

Bill was preceded in death by his wife, Jacque. He is survived by his children, Bill (and Gigi) Merrill of Salem, and Kelli (and Ben) Baker of the United Arab Emirates; his grandchildren Ben (and Joju), Griffin (and Becca), Abigail (and Matthew), Aaron (and Delaney), and Nicholas; and his brother, Hank (and Marilyn), and sister Mary Jo (and Rusty) Shenk.

Due to COVID-19, a memorial service will be held later this year. In the meantime, please celebrate Bill’s long and eventful life by hiking in the woods, fishing in a stream, or sharing stories in his memory.

John Anthony Pagano

July 22, 1952 – April 13, 2021

John was born July 22, 1952 in Portland, to Anthony and Frances Pagano, and died on April 13, 2021.

John attended Milwaukie High School and, after high school, joined the National Guard from 1971-1976, where he found his niche in working with electronics and computers. John married Madeline (Pinky) DiFabio on May 11, 1974, while living in Portland. Ten years later, John had the opportunity to move his family to Sisters, where he and Pinky raised their family over the next 30 years. During that time, John started his own business, Computer Cleaning and Helitronics Landing Lights for emergency vehicles.

While in Sisters, John engulfed himself in the service of his family and his community. He was a volunteer EMT 1 for the Sisters Fire Department for over 20 years. During that time you could see him roaming the sidelines of Sisters High School Football games or organizing the department’s Toys for Tots program in his spare time. John had two hobbies that he enjoyed most; working on electronics and using his HAMM Radio. His home office was scattered with tools and electronics where he was constantly “futzing” around making blinking lights or

landing kits for Air Life. Always attached to John’s hip was his prized possession, his HAMM Radio. Licensed as N7RGF, John was always on his radio, talking to friends around the state.

Later in life, John was diagnosed with Primary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis, which slowly took away his ability to enjoy his hobbies in retirement. However, surrounded by family, he could be seen scootering to soccer, flag football, school plays, bike races, and the occasional road trip to Camp Sherman or Three Creek Lake.

John is survived by an extensive Italian family in the Portland area. John and Pinky are most proud of their children and their extended families, which are spread across the state. Gabe and Heather Pagano, with grandchildren Maya, Max, and Dominic. Megan and Edward (Tank) Duckworth, with Bailey, Amari, and Khi. Finally, James and Krista Hayes, with Jaxon, Maddie, and another one on the way. John is also survived by



his two younger brothers and their families; Ken and Marian Pagano and Dan and Tammy Pagano.

John, Dad, Maddog, Uncle Johnny, or Pappa — you will always be #1.

A mass will be held at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Redmond, on April 24. The rosary will begin at 10:30 a.m., followed by a service at 11 a.m. Cookies, coffee, and drinks to follow.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Oregon Chapter for Multiple Sclerosis at www.nationalmssociety.org/Chapters/ORC; or Redmond Fire Department at www.redmondfireandrescue.org.

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