

IN MEMORIAM

Sam A. Rutledge

March 3, 1936 - Sept. 23, 2020

Sam Rutledge, a retired directing business representative of Woodworkers Local Lodge W12 in Klamath Falls, and one of the longest serving members of the Oregon AFL-CIO Executive Board, passed away in his sleep on Sept. 23. He was 84.

Rutledge began his union career in Klamath Falls in 1957 after taking a job at Weyerhaeuser and joining Local 3-12 of the International Woodworkers of America (IWA). He worked as an edgerman, a sawyer and a heavy equipment operator. He was active in the union, serving as a job steward, chief steward, safety committee member, plant committee chairman, department committee member, and recording secretary. In 1985 he was elected as the full-time business representative for the union.

IWA merged with the International Association of Machinists (IAM) in 1994, creating Machinists District W24.

Rutledge was one of the longest serving members of the Oregon AFL-CIO Executive Board, holding office from 1981 until 1999, when he retired as first vice president. He also was president of the Southeastern Oregon Central Labor Council for 19 years. After retiring he

stayed on as secretary-treasurer of the labor council for several years.

Outside the labor movement Rutledge served as a member of the board of directors of the Klamath County Fire District 1; as treasurer of the Klamath County Democratic Central Committee; and as a member of the Klamath County Juvenile Advisory Committee; and he was active in the Boy Scouts and other community organizations.

SAMUEL ALBERT RUTLEDGE was born March 3, 1936, in Hufmac, Oklahoma. His family moved to Klamath Falls when he was five years old. He talked his way into the U.S. Army at age 16 and served in Germany for most of his three-year enlistment. After his honorable discharge he worked as a union baker in Baltimore, Maryland. He eventually found his way back to Klamath Falls, where he worked for Weyerhaeuser.

Rutledge and his wife, the former Shirley Spaulding, were married in 1963. She also was from Oklahoma, but grew up in Washington before moving to Klamath Falls, where they raised their three kids.

He is survived by his wife; son Allen, daughters Rolinda and Christine; six grandchildren; and six great grandkids. Per his request there will not be a service.



Sam Rutledge

Gerald 'Jerry' R. Lantto

July 12, 1935 - Sept. 19, 2020

Gerald "Jerry" Lantto, a retired assistant directing business representative for the International Association of Machinists (IAM)-Woodworkers regional council (now IAM District W24), passed away Sept. 19 at his home in Coos Bay while surrounded by his family. He was 85.

Before the International Woodworkers of America (IWA) merged with the Machinists to create W24, Lantto was the auditor at the IWA's headquarters in Gladstone, in the same building as the union's merged regional office.

Lantto served as president of the Southwestern Oregon Central Labor Council for nearly 12 years, and was a member of the Oregon AFL-CIO Executive Board through three decades starting in the mid-1970s.

He joined the Woodworkers union in 1958 after taking a job as a millworker at Coos Head



Jerry Lantto

Timber. Prior to that he worked construction and was a member of the Laborers Union. He put in 11 years at Coos Head, and then took a job in a Georgia-Pacific sawmill.

In 1970 he became a field representative for IWA Local 3-116, the Coos Bay-North Bend area's biggest labor organization at the time, with more than 5,000 members. The local has undergone several mergers and today is Local Lodge W261 with offices in North Bend and Central Point.

During his years as labor council president he served on the Coos County government's Budget Committee and was active in the Democratic Party, serving as a precinct committeeperson in the neighborhood where he lived.

After retiring at age 63 he continued to represent IAM-W261 as a delegate to the central labor council, state labor federation, and Oregon Machinists Council.

GERALD ROY LANTTO was born July 12, 1935, in Calumet, Michigan. He was one of seven children. His family moved to Coos Bay when he was two years old. He attended Marsh-

field High School.

He and his wife Rosetta were married Oct. 5, 1957, and remained in Coos Bay where they raised their family.

Lantto is survived by daughters Tina George of Coos Bay, Karma Schellong of Coos Bay, and Sandra Tedford of North Bend; sons Jerald Wilson of North Bend, and David Lantto of Coos Bay; 11 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Rosetta, and daughter, Cinda Stott.

The family suggests memorial contributions to be directed to the Nancy Devereux Center of Coos Bay, Oregon, 1200 Newmark Ave, Coos Bay, OR 97420.

A private service will be held at the Sunset Memorial Park Mausoleum in Coos Bay.

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Paid for by: Elect Tanisha Harris (D)