



Robert J. Helle

April 5, 1930 - September 13, 2020

Bob Helle was a good man. Loving husband and father, brother, grandfather, uncle. He was a firefighter and did and saw things that most of us thankfully will never have to experience. He never spoke of what he saw or had to do. He was responsible and took care in everything he did. He provided for his family and usually worked at least one side job, and sometimes two, on his days off from the fire station. He never complained about it. He volunteered putting Christmas care packages together every year. He helped put together and deliver care packages for people burned out of their homes. He was polite, usually. He taught me by example what is right and wrong. Bob Helle was a good man.

Robert J. Helle was born into a Scandinavian family on a farm in the middle of nowhere, near Adams, North Dakota. His family moved to a farm in the Edgewood area of Puyallup in 1941, when he was 10-11 years old. He continued living in the Puyallup area for the remainder of his life. He and his brothers and sister went to Puyallup High School, from which he graduated in 1948. He became a firefighter in the early 1950s, first working at McChord Air Force base as a civilian. He began working at the Puyallup Fire Department in 1956, serving the community for 31 years until his retirement. He and his wife Marilyn married in 1955 and raised three children together. They enjoyed traveling after retirement, including a trip to Norway to return to their Norwegian roots. They did extensive RVing on both long and short trips. In the last years of his life, after his memory and thinking became muddled by advanced Alzheimer's, he longed to "go home," which in his mind meant the farm in Edgewood.

Preceding him in death is his beloved wife, Marilyn (Piercy); parents, Edwin and Daisy (Knudson) Helle; brothers, Edval, Clark, Charles, and Eugene; sister, Doreen; and cousin, Grace. He is survived by his children, John Helle Otto (Barb Helle), Brad Helle, and Blake Helle; grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Comments



“ Hi guys, wanted to tell you that your dad, Uncle Robbie to me, will be greatly missed! I know it was hard when his health issues took over, but he was a great man! I will miss his smile, and twinkle in his eyes when he laughed! Probably not so much when Uncle Gene & I would knock on your door way to late, “Whew” Auntie M, wasn't happy to see us, I think it was because of Gene, I'm sure it wasn't me, lol. But I know he's at peace in heaven with your Mom, his siblings Grandpa & Grandma & my mom, having a big lutefisk celebration! We love and miss them all very much! Blessings always, Kristy xoxo

Kristy - October 16 at 03:46 AM



“ So Sorry to hear of your Dad's passing. I am glad you were there for him as I was for my Mom. It doesn't make the grieving any less but hope it brings you some comfort knowing you did your best for your Dad and Mom. I am thankful to you John, for staying in touch with Mama Glo and that she was a good sounding board. The old Puyallup gang has been dwindling recently and over the last few years. I can only imagine there has been some great parties with them all. That definitely brings me comfort as I hope it does you.

Heidi J. Aylen



Heidi J Aylen - October 01 at 07:14 PM



“ Dear John, Brad and Blake,

The Gene Stemp family is very sorry to hear of your loss. Many memories of fun times when your family would visit the Stemp home. Bob and Marilyn were such lovely people.

I know Gene and Betty Lou (dad and mom) enjoyed many hours of laughter with your parents. Stay strong together.

Diana Stemp Schrader

Diana Schrader - September 30 at 09:59 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



John Otto - September 25 at 12:33 AM



“ Chinese bob you where the best grandpa anyone could ever ask for you went to all the events I was in growing up you even drove me to my high school graduation I love and miss you so much give gram and my mom a big hug for me love you Chinese bob

Bryce Helle - September 24 at 11:28 AM



“ Bob encouraged me to take the test to become a Puyallup firefighter. The best advise I ever received. We were able to work together for over 20 years. Over a lifetime we meet many people, a few become good friends. Bob was a good friend and I do miss him.

Dennis G Parlari - September 24 at 10:36 AM



“Dad, you and I were so much alike. I remember Mom laughing and saying, “UffDa, you’re just like your father”. I was so proud of you as a firefighter. People would ask me when I was little, are you going to be a fireman like your dad. I’d tell them no way, only to go on and become a firefighter just like you. My proudest memory was going on the First Assembly of God Church fire. Getting sent inside, because I was you son. I love you Dad and miss you. Give Mom a hug and kiss from me.



Blake Helle - September 24 at 08:04 AM



“Robert was my dad's cousin when the Helle's and the Moe's got together it was a good time. Everyone is together now. Your mom and dad were the sweetest couple always glad to see you and visit. I remember going by the farm and going by grandma and grandpa Helle's house by Safeway. Mom always called them that I guess because I never saw my own. Mom sends her condolences to the family as do Nick and I. Take care and know your folks are together again. Sue "Moe" Cusato

Sue "Moe" Cusato - September 22 at 11:36 PM



“Bob and Marilyn were good, kind salt of the earth people. They were neighbors and friends of my parents. Known them forever (since the Helle kids were toddlers) Bob worked at Copeland Lumber on his off days from the fire department. I enjoy going into the restaurant (Sparkies?) by Sparks Stadium and looking at the old firefighter pictures which included Bob. Sending my love to John Otto, Brad and Blake. Jo Anne Crouch Gaspard.

Jo Anne Crouch Gaspard - September 22 at 10:52 PM



“ Papa, you were so loving and giving to us and Christopher and Robbie. I will never forget how you were with Mike as he wanted to mow the lawn behind you as he brought his toy mower over to be like you. You were so proud of him and Jake your first 2 grandkids. You always told me family comes first and that ment all family, cousins, 2nd cousins, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters and nieces and nephews. I was so proud of him as a fireman and that that it was so cool when he would be one of the firemen who would come with the engine to show the whole elementary kids. The love that he and mom taught me is so much what makes me the person I am today. Mom and I would always laugh because as an adult I still would give him kisses good-bye (and not on the cheek). Him being the show little emotion Norwegian that I would say " No give me a real Kiss" and he would give in. Dad. I will miss you so much, but I love how you are now able to be with mom and give her the 3 kisses when you came home, left to go somewhere or just to say goodnight to her. I will always keep that up in my life because I want to be like you.



Brad Helle - September 22 at 10:12 PM



“ Sorry for your loss guys. I have many childhood memories hanging out at your house. Always liked both your dad and mom. Miss all of you!!
Lynn Devers Scheid

Lynn Devers Scheid - September 22 at 10:00 PM



“ I always remember Uncle Bob's laugh, sweet smile, and kind demeanor. I'm sad he has passed, but I have some comfort knowing that Grandma and Grandpa Helle have all of their children home with them in Heaven now. My condolences to you all, may all of those happy memories of the times he had with you all bring some peace. - Kirsten Helle Sandoval, Gene Helle's daughter, Robert's niece.

kirsten Sandoval - September 22 at 09:36 PM