



James V. Hinchey

October 7, 1946 - September 2, 2020

Butch was born October 7, 1946 in Richlands, VA to Virgil & Gladys (Edwards) Hinchey. Butch and his mother flew to Washington State when he was 6 months old to reunite with his father who had been stationed in Japan. They moved around a bit, and eventually settled in Sunnyside, WA where he graduated from High School in 1964. In November 1964 he joined the US Air Force and was stationed in San Antonio, Denver, Tucson, and Miami, as well as in Ubon, Thailand and Kwangju, Korea. In 1968 when he left the Air Force, he joined his parents in Blaine, WA. Not long after that he joined the Blaine Police Force, and 6 years later became Chief of Police. He retired after 28 years on the job. After retirement he attended Bellingham Technical College studying computer networking and was then hired in the BTC computer department from which he retired in 2002.

Butch met his first wife, Linda Powell, at a wedding in June 1969 where he caught the garter and she the bouquet. He told Linda's dad that night he was going to marry her, which he did on September 27, 1969. Together they had 3 children, Nicki, Jeremy & Kellie. He was a loving and involved dad who did everything possible to attend every sporting event, concert, play, etc. He and Linda were happily married for 31 years until her death in January 2001.

Butch was fortunate to later meet Pat Thorpe, whom he married on June 5, 2004. Together they travelled the world on incredible trips that included an African Safari, seeing the Sistine Chapel in Rome, Mexico, France, Russia and several trips to the Caribbean. His last trip was to New York City to watch his dog Tyler in the Westminster Dog Show. They also enjoyed spending time in their 2nd home in Fountain Hills, AZ.

Butch was an active member of Grace Lutheran Church in Blaine for many years, including singing bass in the choir, and later attended Christ Lutheran Church in Ferndale. He was elected to the Whatcom County Fire Commission in 2003 and served until 2009. Butch is survived by his wife Pat Hinchey, Daughter Nicki (Brion) Cortez, son Jeremy (Kara) Hinchey and daughter Kellie (Jay) Burroughs. grandchildren Carson Cortez, Madison, Brady & Jace Hinchey, Jamie (Cieara), Kole & Cody Burroughs. great-granddaughter Presley Burroughs, numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends, and his beloved dog Tyler. We will all miss him dearly.

A small private service will be held to lay Butch to rest, and a Celebration of Life will be

held later when conditions allow. Memorials may be made to:

Christ Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 845

Ferndale, WA 98248

clcferndale.org

or

Whatcom Humane Society

2172 Division St.

Bellingham, WA 98226

whatcomhumane.org/donate

Tribute Wall

DB

“ Butch came into my life when I was 7 years old. We lost the ‘in-law’ immediately and he became another brother. I was invited to join his family on their first Disneyland trip and he joined my family on our first Disneyland trip. So many wonderful memories. Love you to pieces. Will miss you always.

Donna Bridal - September 07, 2020 at 10:17 PM

CW

“ What a contribution to life you are, Butch. I count myself as a lucky woman...I had you as a boss and you wisely chose one of my best friends in the world as your wife. Your light will always shine brightly, my friend. You were an honorable man who is respected, admired and now, missed. Happy trails...catch you on the flip flop, Chief. Love ya, Coleen

Coleen Widell - September 07, 2020 at 08:01 PM

LH

“ I got to know Jim/Butch during High School in Sunnyside. Jim was one of those people that one instantly liked. He was thoughtful, smart and always in good humor. I know he will be missed by many. Prayers to his family and friends. Loran Haworth

Loran Haworth - September 06, 2020 at 12:02 PM

MM

“ So sorry for your loss Pat, fond memories of our trip to Vegas. Prayers to you and the family.

Martina and Jack Miner, Canada.

Martina Miner - September 05, 2020 at 01:37 PM

JW

“ I was a classmate of James in 1964. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this difficult time. RIP James.

Joyce Wiley Wyckoff - September 04, 2020 at 07:31 PM