



Bruce F. Rains

November 14, 1957 - November 22, 2024

Bruce F. Rains of Willcox passed away at home at the age of 67.
Arrangements are currently pending.

Tribute Wall

JV

“ Bruce was my sisters' and my only cousin on our dad's side, born to Dad's older sister, Lois, and her husband, Estle, and joining at home Estle's two older children. He grew up at Lake Roesiger in western Washington in an immaculate lakefront home built by his parents. His mom held down the fort at home during Estle's frequent absences due to his work aboard ship in the merchant marine.

Bruce had a rough start, with heart surgery required in his first year or less of life (before 1960). But after that, he was good to go, armed with an enthusiastic personality (and a great deal of stubbornness). Living near our grandparents, he saw a lot of them, and Gramma - an avid letter writer - kept us up to date on our cousin's exploits. Their relationship was very special.

He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Washington, of which he was rightfully proud, having worked his way through on his own. He worked for a number of years at Bremerton Naval Shipyard, in the field of safety. With his employment secured, Bruce cultivated interests in hiking and baking - especially cinnamon bread, which he loved to share.

Bruce eventually quit the shipyard to attend graduate school in pursuit of a degree in nuclear engineering. He put a lot of work into pursuing this goal, but it wasn't to be. Health issues elbowed their way to the fore and stayed there for the rest of his life. His mom, Lois, summoned him to her home (by then, in Arizona) so she could help him, and he pulled through. Arizona became his home, too.

Rest in peace, Bruce

Janet

Janet VanLeuven-Kern - March 20, 2025 at 08:17 PM

SL

Cousin Bruce was good-natured throughout his life, even when his health prevented him from doing the things he wanted to do in his later years. He and Gramma Eva were kindred spirits, unfussy about many of the pesky details of life, and many of Bruce's happiest days were when he visited Gramma's house during the summer. Bruce enjoyed Gramma's yard and gardens, and may have cultivated his interest in cooking under Gramma's mentorship.

Bruce loved to hike the trails on Mount Pilchuck, which was near his family's home at Lake Roesiger. After he moved away for work and school, he still spoke of Mount Pilchuck and his desire to hike there again.

As Bruce's mobility became more limited and he was less able to enjoy outdoor activities, Bruce captured many photos when he did get out so he could relive the experience later by viewing them on his computer screen. Bruce visited state parks in Oregon and enjoyed the mountains near his home in Willcox, AZ.

Bruce valued living as independently as possible, and was very excited to purchase his home in Willcox, where he could live as he pleased. He sent photos of the house to his cousins in far away Washington state and talked about improvements he wanted to make.

One of the best things to happen after Bruce moved to Willcox was meeting his friend Eric. Although Bruce didn't want to acknowledge it, he needed help with several aspects of ordinary life but refused to ask. Eric recognized that Bruce needed help and offered to drive to appointments, make trips for garbage disposal, take Bruce to the laundromat, take Bruce on drives just to enjoy the outdoors, and help with tasks around the house. Bruce's cousins are deeply appreciative of Eric's friendship and assistance to Bruce. We are grateful to know that Bruce's time included hours of pleasant company and help with often difficult tasks. Thank you, Eric.

*Remembering with fondness,
Susie*

Susan Van Leuven - June 08, 2025 at 03:09 PM