Harold John Helzer



SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

HELZER, Harold John Born: October 17, 1934, Crossfield, Alberta

Gathered to his people: September 1, 2022, Surrey, British Columbia

Harold was born in the small, prairie community of Crossfield to John and Anne Helzer (nee Schnell). Pre-natal care in those times was non-existent, and Harold parents were surprised that Harold was one of two sons who arrived that day. Harold's twin brother Norman was the younger, and as a result of a difficult birth and childhood polio Norman suffered from poor health until his passing in 1978. Patricia joined the family in 1940, followed by Garry in 1947. Life was not easy for the family as they navigated global unrest that was experienced acutely even in rural Alberta. Harold met his lifelong partner Evelyn (nee Banta) as a child, and they were married in 1959. Together, they raised four children, living in Crossfield until 1977 when they relocated to the Okanagan Valley in British Columbia. Harold and Evelyn enjoyed 63 years of marriage until Evelyn's death in June of 2022. They were both members of Peachland Baptist Church for four decades.

Harold worked hard to provide for his family, entering the work force at 16. He tried his hand at many careers – independent businessman, motel owner and operator, hard rock miner, school bus driver, ice road maintenance. In his personal life, Harold grieved many untimely losses of family and friends, including his son Jeffery in 1991. Through it all he maintained his sense of humor, steadfast faith in his Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and deep gratitude. He loved people, loved to laugh, and loved to tell a tall tale. He is survived by his brother Garry, his daughters Sandra, Lori, and Bonnie, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. And although he will be sorely missed, Harold is finally home. He

will be waiting eagerly for his beloved family and friends to join him in the presence of the One who loves unconditionally and without reserve. And Harold will surely have some spectacular stories to tell!

Messages of Condolence

Well written Mom. He left such a legacy of love and humor and while it is so very sad for us who miss him it is so wonderful for him as he is partying up in heaven.

— Elise Malone

John and I sending our thoughts and prayers to friends and family!! We loved our visit with them when we toured through the Okanagan. They will be missed!!

— Sara Helzer

So sorry for your loss, Sandra, Lori and Bonnie. It has certainly been a rough year for you all loosing your sweet mother first and then your commical father. Our love, thoughts and prayers are with you all, not only from us but including all my sisters and their families.

God be with you all.

— Michele, Carlos, Scott Mendonca

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