

Judd Max Lanham 1941-2022

Judd Max Lanham, born February 19, 1941, in Cascade, Idaho died January 18, 2022, at his home in Boise with his beloved Sandy, his wife of nearly 50 years, by his side.

Judd was a man of lifelong good character. He was a natural leader, staunch ally, and enduring friend. He approached every challenge and opportunity with creative vision and the knowledge of experience. For those he cared about, his love, time and hard-earned treasure were generously abundant.

Judd loved to tell people he was born in a log cabin in Cascade. The day before his birth, his mother Marguerite made the long trip to the Boise hospital only to be told "little lady, you're at least a week out from giving birth." The next day, back in Cascade, she went into labor and after a long night, the baby boy arrived.

Judd, his parents and grandparents lived outside of the town of Cascade until 1946, when their ranch fell to *eminent domain* and was covered by Cascade Reservoir. The family, which now included his sister Susan, moved to Boise. As a youngster in the Boise Bench neighborhood, Judd attended numerous elementary schools, South Junior High and both Boise and Borah high schools. He was a member of Borah High's first graduating class in 1959 and had fond memories of fast cars and fun parties. Despite being voted "most likely not to succeed," Judd enjoyed a very successful business and family life.

After high school, Judd enrolled at Boise Junior College (now Boise State University), intent on pursuing a degree in criminal justice. He dropped out after a few semesters, when he learned that the money he made playing cards in the Student Union exceeded a probation officer's annual salary. After a short stint in cosmetology school, (which led to a future hairspray ban in his home for his chagrined daughter), he found himself in the Army from 1964 to 1966, serving in post-war Korea's Demilitarized Zone. After the Army, Judd joined his dad constructing power lines across the Desert Southwest. There he met and fell sweetly, madly, deeply in love with Sandra Gail Lyon. They wed in her hometown of Needles, California on January 29, 1972.

Before starting a family, Judd and Sandy spent several years exploring and enjoying the Southwest, making a modest living by applying Judd's skills from his military, power line and other work experience. One of his grandchildren's favorite stories is when Sandy drove him to his new job as a "powder monkey" while he hurriedly read a book on how to work with explosives. The couple settled for a time in Scottsdale, Arizona, where daughter Britney May was born in 1975, and later moved to Caldwell, Idaho to be near Judd's parents. Their son Cole Max was born in 1977.

Judd and Sandy took on a variety of business opportunities while raising their family in Caldwell. With every new business -- a farm, real estate, a day care center, roofing, asphalt, construction and, ultimately, a construction supply company -- Judd loved learning new things.

Judd brought a creative eye, a listening ear and an engineer's mind to his many projects. Working side-by-side, he and Sandy built their entrepreneurial interests into a prosperous business enterprise. Along the way, he mentored many young people and helped them develop successful businesses of their own.

Family, friends and those who worked with him knew the strength of Judd's character, his unflagging energy, and his desire to enrich not only his own life, but also theirs. He pushed, pulled, prodded and provoked those he cared for, encouraging each to give life their best efforts. Judd continued his business endeavors until nearly his last day, but he did allow himself to enjoy the fruits of his labor. He and Sandy shared many adventures across the globe with their friends Bill Wallace and Chrissy Scripture. He designed and built a beautiful cabin for his family in Featherville, Idaho and he played an active daily role in the lives of his two grandchildren, who he loved dearly.

Judd is greatly mourned and missed by his wife Sandra, son Cole, daughter Britney, son-in-law Mike Journee, grandchildren Eleanor and Max, sister Susan Svitak, niece Amy Klamper, grandniece Eva and grandnephew John, as well as a number of nieces, nephews and cousins throughout the West.

A planned celebration of Judd and Sandy 50th wedding anniversary on January 29 will continue, despite his passing. Please join us to honor Judd's life and his marriage with Sandy. The open house celebration will be held at The Orchards at Fairview Clubhouse, 1530 N. McKinney Lane in Boise from 3-6 p.m.