

John Patrick Simpson



John Patrick Simpson, age 52, passed away peacefully on May 28, 2019, at Asante Rogue Regional Hospital, surrounded by his family. His unexpected death was caused by complications from a dog bite. Born in Portland, Oregon, he was the son of John and Marianna Simpson of Grants Pass.

He grew up in a close-knit family singing songs together in the pickup truck on the way to vacation spots or camping trips or even on a drive to visit relatives. Family chores like cutting wood, household cleanup or yard work, hunting and fishing excursions, and motorcycle rides in the woods on our mountain property, were all intertwined with family.

He developed an intense love of nature and the outdoor world from a young age. He learned fishing and hunting skills by tagging along with his father and uncles. John was at home hunting ducks and geese in the swamps around Klamath Falls or pulling salmon over the side of the family's commercial salmon trawler at the coast during the summer. In the fall, he and his dad did both rifle and archery hunting during deer and elk season. They were

closely bonded in their outdoor endeavors.

John was a 1984 graduate of Grants Pass High School. He played trumpet in the marching band and was on the wrestling team. Out of high school, he received a Navy ROTC Scholarship to pursue an engineering degree at Oregon State College.

After the first year, he decided to join the Navy for real and entered their nuclear program. Later, during his enlistment, he switched to electrician tech and served on the aircraft carrier, USS Saratoga, during the Gulf War. Upon his honorable discharge from the Navy, he stayed on the East Coast in Georgia, selling cars for a large dealership.

Several years later, the forests, mountains and lakes of Oregon called him home. He worked for Syngenta during the day and took night classes at RCC. He later worked toward a college degree at the University of Oregon. In the next few years, he returned to the Rogue Valley and took a position at the VA in White City, where he worked his way up to maintenance supervisor.

Over the past weeks we've learned just how strong he was as his family, friends, and acquaintances share precious stories of his life. He made friends easily and was true to each and every one of them. He supported them, guided them, and made them happy. John had a tender spiritual relationship with Jesus that he shared with those who knew him well.

John lived life on his terms. He listened, but didn't always take advice. He did not conform to social "norms." He was a free spirit, who lived in the present and again on his terms. He was a leader and mentor to the troubled. He could enter a room and brighten it with his smile, his wit, or just his presence.

Survivors include his mother, Marianna; sister, Lisa Melinda Haight; and two nieces, Emily and Gwendolynn Haight.

He was preceded in death by his father in 2016.

Interment with Military Honors and the sharing of personal aspects of John's life will be held at Eagle Point National Cemetery on Friday, June 21, at 10 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to a veteran's charity of your choice.

