



Ellis Leroy Thompson



Ellis
(Tom)
Thompson
passed away
peacefully
surround-

ed by loved ones on September 12, 2022, in Flagstaff, AZ. Born in Ogden, UT, on April 21, 1936, to Velma and Ira Thompson, he soon moved with his family to Southern Idaho. He was the fourth child of 12 children. After graduating high school, he joined the Navy and served for four years during the Korean War.

After leaving the Navy, Tom attended Weber State University in Utah where he majored in business management. He landed a job as an assistant manager for Woolworths in Riverton, Wyoming. In 1965, he met the love of his life, Shirley and her two young sons, Steve and Mark. They wed only three months after their first date. In 1970, their daughter Barbie was born, and Tom affectionately called his family the "Fab Five."

As manager of Woolworths, Tom transferred to various states, and in 1985, the family moved to Klamath Falls, which they considered home. He was a familiar site in the

store, always wearing a suite and tie and always on the sales floor. He remained with his favorite store and crew until the roof caved in during the snowstorm of 1993. Tom then went to Watsonville, CA, to close one of the last remaining stores and then returned to Klamath Falls five years later. Tom and Shirley remained in Klamath until her passing in 2020.

In June of 2020, he moved to Flagstaff, AZ, to be closer to his daughter and his son-in-law. He enjoyed going on the trails with Barbie in his beloved Jeep (although the trails she took him on made him quite nervous) and shooting his BB gun with Jeff (they had to replace the neighbor's window only once).

Tom's only regret was not taking Shirley on the Alaskan cruise they dreamed about, but their family takes solace they can go anywhere now, together.

He was preceded in death by his parents, most of his brothers and all of his sisters; his beloved wife Shirley; and his grandson, Kyle McLean. He leaves behind his son, Steve Vegas, daughter-in-law, Rae Watson, and their children, Jesse and Luke, of Rogue River, OR; son, Mark Vegas, of Baring, WA; daughter, Barbie, her husband and Tom's son-in-law, Jeff McLean, and their daughter, Madison, of Flagstaff, AZ; and his brother, Phil Thompson, of Blackfoot, ID.

Funeral arrangements are pending at this time.

Please sign the online guest book at www.heraldandnews.com/obituaries