

## Lavern Petsche, 81

Jan. 9, 1934 - Aug. 16, 2015

**MERIDAN, ID** — Lavern Anthony Petsche was born on January 9, 1934 to Susan Barbara (Klein) and George Fred Petsche of Harlan. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. He graduated in the Class of 1952 from Harlan High School.

He enlisted into the United States Air Force on June 1, 1953 and was honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant on March 15, 1957. He was stationed at Hamilton AFB in California, when he met Billie Jo Ross. On April 14, 1956, they were married at St. Louis Bertrand's Catholic Church in Oakland, CA and resided in Sacramento, CA. Lavern and Billie relocated to Harlan in 1960, and Lavern joined his brothers in running the family business, Petsche Plumbing & Heating. Throughout their 59 years together, they were blessed with 9 children, 24 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. In 1995, they moved to Meridian, ID to live near their children. Lavern worked with his son Tim in the heating cooling industry until retiring in 2011.

Lavern's life passions included his love for his family, faith and flight. He thoroughly enjoyed living near his children and grandchildren where much time was spent at his grandchildren's events and many family get-togethers. Lavern was a dedicated member of the St. Mark's Catholic Community. He was an honorable member of the Knights of Columbus, served as an usher and participated in Eucharistic Adoration. Lavern learned to fly and became a licensed pilot at the age of 16. Through the GI Bill he obtained certification as a commercial pilot, including endorsements in twin engine, instrument, and flight instruction. He was a 20-year member of the Experimental Aircraft Association and spent 6 years with his son, Tim, and a group of friends from 1999-2005, building 13 Kit Fox airplanes, including one of his own. Lavern and Billie took several flying trips throughout their life together in their plane.

Having fought a courageous battle against Multiple Myeloma for nearly 4 years, Lavern passed away at his home surrounded by his loving family on August 16, 2015, at the age of 81. He is survived by his wife, Billie; his children: Kim (Larry) Tiernan of Boise, ID, Tim (Lisa) of Meridian, ID, Tony of Boise, ID, Randy (Janice) of Boise, ID, Shari Boyle of Meridian, ID, Jackie (Allan) Grote of Boise, ID, David (Tammy) of Meridian, ID, Jeanne Petsche (José Gómez-Elegido) of Renton, WA and Angie (Kerry) Gaul of Meridian, ID; twenty-four grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; siblings: Lucille McK-eighan of Las Vegas, NV, Phyllis (Paul) Stephany of Harlan; twin brother, Leonard (June) Petsche of Queens Creek, AZ, George (Sue) Petsche of Harlan, Charlene (Neil) Mahlberg of Harlan, and Jim Petsche of Harlan, their families and countless friends. Please join the family to celebrate his life and loving legacy.

A vigil service was held at St. Mark's Catholic Community, 7960 W. Northview St. in Boise on August 20th at 7:00 PM. A Mass of Christian burial was held at St. Mark's Catholic Community, on August 21st at 11:00 AM. Interment was at 1:00 PM at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery in Boise with reception immediately following at St. Mark's Catholic Community.

The family would like to thank the caring staff at Legacy Hospice and St. Alphonsus 3rd and 5th floors of the South Tower for their compassionate care. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Lavern's name to the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, 383 Main Avenue, 5th Floor Norwalk, CT 06851. Remembrances may be left online at [www.AccentFuneral.com](http://www.AccentFuneral.com).



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