

Peter Harry Wells

April 19, 1943 - December 31, 2021

Peter Harry Wells, 78, of Pendleton passed peacefully at home on December 31, 2021. He was born April 19, 1943 in Waltham, Massachusetts to Betsy (Bassett) and Winthrop Wells.

Pete was the oldest of three brothers (Mike and Steve) and moved to Portland when he was 5 where he later married his wife ElRae in 1969. They would be married for just over 52 years. Together they had a son (Ray) and daughter (Mary Sara) before moving to Pendleton in 1977, just after Pete finished law school at the University of Oregon.

They initially agreed try our Pendleton for a year, fell in love with the community, and have remained ever since. Along the way, they continued to grow their family as additional parents to Toni and Andrea, parents-in-law to Nina, and grandparents to Westley, Britainey, Jaedyn, Kielynn, and Aliyah.

When Pete was born, due to his hemophilia, he had a life expectancy of 21. He not only surpassed that expectation but so many others in the process of becoming a pillar of the Pendleton community. He moved to Pendleton to start his law career and continued a number of positions throughout his career leading to serving as the City Attorney of Pendleton for 14 years followed by a short term as municipal court judge.

After retirement, Pete enjoyed traveling with his wife, bicycling with Pendleton on Wheels, providing legal advice to non-profits, cheering for the Oregon Ducks, and being a grandfather.

Pete was awarded the honor of First

Citizen in 1998 due to his volunteer commitments which continued long after this award. Among the many places he donated his time are Pendleton Swim Association,

Pendleton Downtown Development Commission, Kiwanis, Boy Scouts of America, St. Anthony's Hospital, St. Mary's Outreach, SMART in Pendleton for which he was awarded the volunteer of the year for the State of Oregon in 2016, Tonya's House, Domestic Violence Services in Pendleton, Relay for Life, Pendleton Round-up, PFLAG, Pendleton Presbyterian Church, Eastern Oregon Presbytery,

High School Band Parents Committee, Buck Boosters, ASPIRE, and served as Santa for numerous local organizations once his beard turned white.

Jimmy Stewart was once asked how he wanted to be remembered and stated "as someone who believed in hard work and love of country, love of family, and love of community". This and love of God sum up who Pete was.

Pete was preceded in death by both his parents, his mother-in-law, one of his brothers, and numerous friends. He is survived by his wife, brother, children, and grandchildren who all miss him dearly.

A memorial service will be schedule for this Spring and information will be forthcoming.

In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to the Hemophilia Foundation of Oregon, SMART Reading, Vange John Memorial Hospice, Pendleton PFLAG, or the Pendleton Foundation Trust.

