



Charles Lee Bates

September 25, 1952 - January 29, 2026

Charles Lee “Charlie” Bates, age 73, passed away peacefully at his home on January 29, 2026, leaving behind a lifetime of stories, laughter, and well-fed family and friends.

Charlie was born on September 25, 1952, in Boise, Idaho to William and Geneva Bates. He grew up in Boise with his sisters, Darla and Karen. He spent 26 years working for WinCo, a career that allowed him to retire early in 2010—a milestone he fully embraced. In 2011, Charlie and his beloved spouse, Gwen, made the move to Depoe Bay, Oregon, a place that captured his heart immediately. From that moment on, he was exactly where he wanted to be.

Charlie loved his community and briefly served on the Depoe Bay City Council in 2019, offering his time and perspective. But his true passions were found outdoors and around the table—fishing on the ocean, cooking for family and friends, and preparing food for events at the Eagles in Lincoln City. Charlie was happiest when his large smoker was going, and he became known for always having something delicious smoking and ready to share.

Above all else, Charlie cherished his family. He is survived by his beloved spouse, Gwen Bates; his children, Kati Bates and Dan Bates (Shawn); his cherished grandchildren, Casey Charles (Michaela) and Gabe; and his great-

grandchildren, Casey Sawyer and Gatlin. His legacy lives on in every shared meal, fishing story, and moment of togetherness.

A celebration of life is being planned, and the date will be announced at a later time.

In lieu of flowers and/or cards, the family kindly asks that donations be made to Beach Buddies, an organization that provides adults of all abilities who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities with access to integrated social events and activities along the Central Oregon Coast.

Donations may be made at:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/donation-form/support-our-operating-and-events-costs>

Tribute Wall



“ We send our condolences. Abel Insurance Agency members.

Shellie Mize - February 20 at 11:59 AM



“ Please accept my condolences on the loss of your husband, dad, grandpa, brother, uncle, and friend. May you rest in peace Charlie. Thanks for the hospitality you extended during our visit there.



Debbie Bardwell - February 13 at 10:29 AM



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Bateman Newport LLC - February 11 at 12:53 PM