

Robert "Dave" Force, 61

March 17, 1946 - Aug. 14, 2007

HARLAN - Robert "Dave" Force was born March 17, 1946, to Dale and Jean (Fritts) Force in Portland, OR. He was confirmed at Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church. He attended elementary school in Portland and graduated at Rainier High School in Rainier, OR, with the class of 1964. He continued his education at Lower Columbia Community College in Longview, WA. Dave left college to enlist in the United States Air Force in 1965. He received his specialty training and worked as a weather forecaster, beginning with Chanute Air Force Base in Illinois and ending with Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska. He also served in a financial capacity at the Army Chapel in Fort Wainwright, AK. During the summer of 1967, Dave met LaVonne Walker on McChord Air Force Base in Washington state.

Dave married LaVonne two years later June 5, 1969, at McChord Air Force Base. One son, Steven, was born to this union. Dave was also stationed at Thulle Air Force Base in Greenland for one year of duty. He spent 26 years in the Air Force, obtaining the rank of Senior Master Sergeant, and receiving his honorable discharge Nov. 1, 1991. After becoming a civilian, he went back to college and obtained his degree in computerized bookkeeping at Charter College in Anchorage, AK. After completing his degree, Dave worked as a full charge bookkeeper for two construction companies until his retirement in July 2006. Between the summer of 1997 and September of 2006, when Dave and LaVonne moved to Harlan, he was very active at Dimond Grace Fellowship in Anchorage, where he was an Elder, bookkeeper, teacher, and leader. Dave became sick in June of 2007 and was admitted to Creighton Medical Center in Omaha, NE. It was there that he died Aug. 14, 2007, at age 61 years, four months, and 28 days.

Dave was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Sumner Earlywine; and his step-mother, Patience Force. He is survived by his wife of 38 years, LaVonne of Harlan; his son, Steven Force (Melanie) of Ewa Beach, HI, three grandchildren, Malcolm, Cameron, and Isabella; his brothers, Don Earlywine (Annie) of Prineville, OR, Dan Force (Diane) of Vancouver, WA; and Tim Force of Rainier, OR; nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Aug. 21, 2007, with Rev. Chris Ball and Rev. Gundar Lamberts officiating at First Baptist Church in Harlan. Casket bearers were Mike Dorland, Jeremy Walker, David Martin, Jim Powell, Mike Brandt, and Joe Powell. Military rites were held by the Harlan American Legion Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150 and Shelby County VFW Post No. 941 at the Harlan Cemetery. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements

