

## In Memoriam: Lt. Colonel Raymond Robert Whitlow

This poetic excerpt was found in a high school folder of Ray's and were the words he lived by: ***"I have to live with myself, and so, I want to be fit for myself to know; I want to be able as days go by, always to look myself straight in the eye; I don't want to stand with the setting sun and hate myself for the things I've done. I want to go out with my head erect. I want to deserve all men's respect, while here in the struggle for fame and wealth. I want to be able to like myself. I don't want to look at myself and know I am bluster and bluff and empty show. I never can fool myself and so whatever happens I want to be self-respecting and conscious free."*** (Adapted from the poem *Myself* by Edgar Guest).

Lt. Colonel Raymond Robert Whitlow '70, USMCR, J.D., 65, of Kennewick, Washington, beloved husband of Chieko Whitlow for 37 years, passed away as a result of a tragic car accident on Monday, March 18, 2013.

Ray Whitlow lived his life as a true servant leader. He was a devoted husband, son, brother, friend, attorney, Marine, coach, teacher, benefactor, volunteer and mentor; an avid sports enthusiast; generous WSU supporter; active in the Tri-Cities Cougar Club and served for the last 14 years as Tri-Cities Prep's Athletic Director and Wrestling Coach. In his professional life, Ray was a senior partner with the law firm of Hames, Anderson, Whitlow & O'Leary in Kennewick where he specialized in worker's compensation, Social Security, veteran's rights, and labor law.

Ray was born December 3, 1947, in Seattle, Washington, to Raymond Aubrey and Eileen Patricia Whitlow. His father preceded him in death in 2002, and he is survived by his loving wife Chieko Whitlow of Kennewick; mother Eileen Patricia Whitlow of Kennewick; brother Daniel Whitlow of Cougar, WA; sister Diane Marie Whitlow and her husband Scott Russell Hallett of Richland, WA; nephew Matthew Whitlow of Phoenix, AZ; nephew Gregory Whitlow of Kennewick, WA; nephew Eric Veach of Bellevue, WA; and niece Jennifer Rupe and husband Jason Rupe, great nieces Bella, Addison, Lexi, Sydney and great nephews Anthony, Clayton, and Nathan, all of Kennewick, WA.

Ray and Eileen Whitlow raised their family in the Columbia Basin and Ray grew up on a wheat and alfalfa farm between Ephrata and Quincy, WA. As a young boy, Ray spent countless hours meticulously assembling model airplanes and cars, paying diligent attention to the most minute of details. He also enjoyed constructing and assembling erector sets and designing structures with his Lincoln logs. Ray was an only child until he was three when his brother Dan was born and his sister Diane was born 10 years later. Ray's lifelong love for sports began at an early age. He had quite an arm for throwing the baseball and loved playing Little League. He and little brother Dan could change the wheeled irrigation lines on the farm in record time when a game was scheduled, a chore which normally took them forever to do.

Ray attended Ephrata schools and continued to play baseball throughout his school years. In high school, Ray played third base and in the outfield; lettering in baseball all three years. Ray was an avid and successful wrestler, lettering all three years. He served as the captain of the wrestling team where he demonstrated his leadership, dedication and drive. He was a true representative of the Ephrata High School Tigers' spirit with his aggressive manner on the wrestling mat, but remaining cool and collected in everything else he did. Academics were always a priority for Ray and his name was always on the honor roll. He graduated with honors from Ephrata High School in 1966.

Ray received a wrestling scholarship and attended Washington State University in Pullman from 1966-70. At WSU, Ray was a varsity letterman in intercollegiate wrestling and active in student government and group living activities. He graduated in 1970 with a B.A. in Political Science. From 1970-73, Ray attended the University of Oregon Law School, in Eugene, Oregon, where he earned his Juris Doctorate (J.D.).

It was the Vietnam War era and while in law school, Ray enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and was Commissioned 2nd Lt. Active Duty. After law school, from 1973-1977, he served with the 3rd Marine Division in SE Asia and 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, California, as a Judge Advocate. From 1978-1994, Ray served on Reserve Duty with several Marine Reserve Units. In Pasco, Ray served as an Executive Officer of VTU 2217, NRC, and training officer and staff judge advocate 1 NRC 1 Richland, Washington. In the 1980s, Ray attended Reserve Military Justice Refresher Course, Reserve Amphibious Warfare I and II, Reserve Command and Staff College I and II, the Naval War College and the National Defense University. He received the National Defense Service Medal, Sea Service Duty Medal, and Reserve Medal and retired in 1995 as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Marine Corps.

It was during the time Ray was stationed in Okinawa, Japan, that he met the love of his life Chieko. After two years of Chieko traveling back and forth from Okinawa to California, where Ray was stationed at Camp Pendleton, they were married in a small private ceremony in 1976 and lived the next year in Oceanside, California. The following year, they moved to the Tri-City area where Ray took a position with the Benton County Prosecutor's Office.

From 1978-1983, Ray served as a criminal deputy prosecuting attorney for Benton County. He tried numerous felony jury trials and handled several appeals to both the State Court of Appeals and State Supreme Court. He also supervised junior attorneys and staff and was active in teaching attorney and law enforcement seminars. From 1983-1986, Ray was employed by Washington Public Power Supply System where he served as a staff attorney responsible for cases in the areas of construction claims, labor law and personal injury.

Ray Whitlow joined the law firm of Hames, Anderson & Whitlow in 1986, where he focused his practice on worker's compensation, Social Security, veteran affairs and criminal law. He planned to retire at the end of 2013. Ray was a respected attorney, wonderful partner, employer and friend to those he worked with for the last 27 years.

Many in the community have reached out to Ray's family, office family and the community to express their condolences and to share stories of their own personal relationship with Ray. Ray's family expresses appreciation for your outpouring of love and support during this difficult time. According to his prior wishes, there will be no services held. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Tri-Cities Prep, 9612 St. Thomas Drive, Pasco, WA 99301.

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