Walter Leroy Luhr 1936-2014

Walter Leroy Luhr, "Walt", age 78, of Nampa, died peacefully on Sunday, August 10, 2014. Funeral services will be held Saturday, August 16, 2014, at 10 A.M. at Potter Funeral Chapel in Emmett, Idaho. Burial will follow at the Emmett Cemetery.

Walt was born March 23, 1936, at home in Emmett, Idaho. He was the only child of Harry and Pearl Luhr. He graduated from Emmett High School in 1954 and attended the University of Idaho for two years. He graduated from Idaho State College with a degree in Pharmacy and a minor in Business Management Finance. He was a member of the Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity.

After graduating in 1959, Walt married his high school sweetheart, Kay Callender. He began his professional career at Orville Jackson's Drug Store in Eagle, Idaho. Several years later, Walt and Kay moved to La Grande, Oregon, where they bought and operated their own drug store, Graham Drug, for many years. During that time he also operated a clinic pharmacy and provided unit dosing for a La Grande nursing home. He was also a consulting pharmacist for the Grande Ronde Hospital. In 1977, Walt sold his drug store, and he and Kay moved to Nampa, Idaho.

During Walt's professional years, he was president of the Northeast Oregon Pharmaceutical Association and president-elect of the Oregon State Pharmacy Association. He was chairman of the Oregon Pharmaceutical Legislature Committee and the Pharmaceutical Insurance Committee.

During his business career he was a member of the La Grande Chamber of Commerce, and also served as a member of the La Grande Planning Commission, and member of the La Grande Airport Commission. He was an active member in the La Grande Farmers Merchant Association and served several years on the Union County Fair Board. He also was president of the Retail Merchants Association and received the Merchant of the Year award in 1970.

In 1970, Walt fulfilled a life long dream of his by obtaining his pilot's license with instruments, instructor, and commercial ratings. He was a member of the QB Flying Club.

In Idaho, Walt was a member of the Treasure Valley Pharmacy Association, serving one year as president, and he was also a member of the Capital Pharmacy Association. Walt was elected to the board of directors of the Idaho State University Alumni Association.
Walt worked for several pharmacies throughout the Treasure Valley and retired from Albertsons in Nampa in 2000.

Walt was a 57-year member of the Masonic Lodge #37, a member of the Scottish Rite Freemasonry, and a member of El Korah Shrine Temple.

He was also a member of the Payette Shrine Club, the Snake River Shrine Club, the El Korah Clown Unit, and a member of the Elks Lodge #1389 in Nampa.

Walt was very much a people person and a favorite of many of his customers. He had a large following no matter where he was working. He was very caring and willing to take extra time to explain any questions a customer would have concerning a prescription.

He will always be remembered for his outgoing and fun loving personality. Walt is survived by his wife Kay and his sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Nancy and Nathan M. Alexander, a niece Natalie Westcott, a nephew Nathan R. Alexander and numerous cousins. The family wishes to express their gratitude for the wonderful care and compassion given by the staff of Life Care Center of Boise and Hospice Partners of America. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the El Korah Shrine, 1118 W. Idaho St., Boise, Idaho, 83702 or Idaho State School of Pharmacy, 921 South 8th Ave., Pocatello, Idaho, 83209