Russell Samuel Hennessey

It is with great sadness that the Hennessey family announce the passing of Russell Samuel Hennessey, husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather and friend. Russ will be forever loved and remembered by his best friend and wife of 67 years Gail. Russ will always be remembered by his loving family: Helen and Ron Colpitts and their son Bruce; Michael and Linda Hennessey and their son Timothy with his wife Rachel and their children Olivia and Ben; Keith and Tracey Hennessey and their children Brianne, Jennifer, Scott with his wife Sarah, Robert and his wife Tessa, Sierra and Chase; his extended family and many friends.

Russ was born in Reserve Mine, Nova Scotia. He was raised by his mother Florence and father Mike with his siblings John and Marina. In 1947, the family moved to East Coulee Alberta where his father worked as a coal miner mechanic and Russ went to school at the East Coulee single room school for all grades (now a museum). There he met his lifelong friend Ed Hunt with whom many adventures were had. The family moved to Calgary in 1953 where Russ completed high school at Western Canada High. After school he enlisted in the Air Force and after completing basic training, he was stationed at many Canadian Air Force bases.

In 1956 Russ was transferred to Ottawa; where on a blind date with his Air Force friends and local student nurses; Russ met the love of his life; Gail Haywood. Within a year, Russ and Gail were married on August 7, 1957.

Russ was a member of the Canadian Air Force serving for 10 years, including a four-year deployment at 4 Wing, Sollingen, Germany. After his retirement from the air force; the family moved to Edmonton Alberta where Russ was employed by AGT (Alberta Government Telephone) as an engineer; computer programmer and computer programmer instructor. In 1976, Russ

and Gail moved the family to Victoria to become the owners of Gilwood Wholesale (a sewing notions wholesaler) and Buttons & Bows Fabric Store. Russ successfully ran Gilwood for fourteen years until he chose to sell the business and retire.

Russ was a long serving member of the Knights of Columbus and was the Grand Knight at both St. Patrick's Parish in Victoria and Our Lady of the Rosary in Langford. In addition, Russ was a Fourth-Degree member; Faithful Navigator and District Deputy for Greater Victoria. Russ was also a long-time member of Uplands Golf Course; where on October 13th, 1983 he had his one and only Hole-in-One on the fourth hole.

Russ had a stroke in 2018 that left him with movement challenges that prevent him from doing many of the things he enjoyed in life including golf. As time progressed the challenges became greater, slowly eroding his ability to enjoy the finer moments of life; culminating in a stroke on January 2nd that ultimately led to his passing on January 7th. The family is grateful that he is now at peace.

There will be a Celebration of Life at Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, 595 Galiano Crescent, at 1:00 PM, Saturday, January 14th , 2023, followed by a reception at the Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre Fieldhouse. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made the BC Children's Hospital.

Condolences may be offered to the family below.

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