

In Loving Memory

Charles Robert Whitfield

January 8, 1948 – May 18, 2026



Charles "Charlie" Robert Whitfield, 78, of Portland, Oregon, passed away on May 18, 2026, after a brief illness, with his family at his side.

Born January 8, 1948, in Spokane, Washington, to Edward and Marie Whitfield, Charlie studied mechanical engineering at Oregon State University, graduating in 1970. He spent thirty-four years at Pacific Northwest Steel, rising from a shop floor apprentice to plant operations manager, and was remembered by colleagues as the person who could fix anything and explain it to anyone.

He married Susan Crowley in 1971, and the two were partners in everything for fifty-five years, raising two daughters in the same house on Alder Street where Susan still lives.

Charlie was a fixture at the Hillside Woodworkers' Guild, where he built furniture he insisted on giving away, and he spent two decades volunteering as a math tutor at the local community center. He is best remembered for his Saturday pancakes, his refusal to read a manual before assembling anything, and the patience he showed every grandchild who wanted to learn to use a hand plane.

He is survived by his wife Susan, his daughters Rebecca (Paul) and Anne, five grandchildren, and his brother Frank. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Dorothy.

The family will receive friends on the evening of Friday, May 22, at Holloway Funeral Home in Portland. A funeral service will follow on Saturday, May 23, at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, with interment afterward at Riverview Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests memorial contributions be made to the Hillside Woodworkers' Guild scholarship fund.