

Obituary

Alan Felt Archibald, 69



Alan Felt Archibald, beloved husband and cherished father, left this world for the next on October 12, 2011. "Big Al" remained a charismatic, boisterous, soul satisfying, steady presence in his family's life. He lived life to the fullest up until the end, demonstrating the warmth and contagious humor that characterized his life.

Alan was born on July 26, 1942, in Wapello, Idaho to Blair and Verle Marie Archibald. The oldest of six siblings, he was a hero to all five younger brothers; David, John, Elden, Douglas and Richard.

Growing up on the farm, life was anything but boring in the Archibald home, with Big Al being idolized by his younger brothers. After attending school at Rick's College in Rexburg for a bit, Alan decided to fulfill his need to see new sights and traveled to numerous destinations around the country, trying his hand and multiple endeavors. Alan then served a term for the United States Air Force. After traveling and living all over the country, Big Al ended up right back in Southeast Idaho, which would be 'home' until the end.

Alan will be forever grateful to younger brother Elden for introducing him to the love of his life, his Kiwi sweetheart, Roberta "Bobbie" Ihimaera, from Hastings, New Zealand. After a whirlwind romance, only seen in movies, resulting in stacks of letters being sent back and forth from Idaho to New Zealand, Alan and Roberta were married in New Zealand, on November 10, 1979. Moving back to the states after the wedding, Alan was reunited with his two daughters, Tanya and Kathy, from previous relationships. In 1980, they added to their little family, having a daughter who is the spitting image of Big Al himself, naming her Alayna. In 1982, another little girl was born, named Arohanui, and in 1985, Alan finally got his little boy, his pride and joy, and named him Lowell Blair.

Big Al worked for Western Transport as a long haul driver for 24 years, and in those years, the number of days he missed work could be counted on one hand. That kind of steady, old-fashioned perseverance was a mark of his character, and maybe a reflection of his father's work ethic, shining through. During the times he was home, he spent most of his time obsessing over his, 'little honey,' known to everyone else as his granddaughter, Khloe, and also his, 'little rascal,' known to everyone else as his grandson, Archer. When he wasn't being an overprotective grandpa, you could find him, or more accurately, could hear him before you saw him, telling colorful jokes, making people laugh or helping out in any way he could. Big Al was also a good friend of the casinos, and liked to try his hand at doubling up, whenever possible. He also enjoyed taking long drives on the country roads, telling one of his thousands of incredible stories he had accumulated throughout the years.

He is survived by his wife Roberta; his five children; Tanya, Kathy, Alayna, Arohanui and Lowell; six grandchildren, Schuyler Ormiston, Zain Ormiston, Richard Ormiston, Archer Oakley James, Elyjah Archibald and Khloe Love Archibald; all five brothers; David, John, Elden, Douglas and Richard; as well as numerous nieces and nephews, all of whom adored big Uncle Al, and knew he was always good for a laugh. Despite him living a full, rich, colorful 69 years, they wish he could have lived forever. We'll meet again Big Al, and we can't wait to see you in your Big Al shades, and hear your dainty voice.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 15, 2011 at Hawker Funeral Home, 132 South Shilling Avenue in Blackfoot. Family will meet with friends and relatives for one hour prior to services at the funeral home. Condolences may be sent to condolences@hawkerfuneralhome.com.