



Lavon Shelton Obituary

April 12, 1941 - April 7, 2025

Boise, Idaho - Lavon Ervin Shelton, affectionately known as "Shelly," passed away peacefully at his home in Boise, Idaho, on April 7, 2025, just five days shy of his 84th birthday. He died following a fierce and courageous battle with brain cancer, surrounded by the deep love of his family.

Born on April 12, 1941, at St. Luke's Hospital in Boise, Lavon was the son of Carroll Dixon Shelton and Jeannette Elizabeth Ervin Shelton. He grew up in Boise, where he developed a deep love for the outdoors, a strong work ethic from the family business, and a lifelong loyalty to his hometown. He was also especially fond of his childhood dog, and remembered those years with great affection.

Lavon attended several Boise public schools, graduating from West Junior High and then Borah High School as part of its inaugural class in 1959. An Eagle Scout and standout athlete, he served as co-captain of Borah's state champion football team and went on to become a state champion wrestler his senior year. He continued his wrestling career on scholarship at Boise Junior College before completing his undergraduate degree at the University of Oregon.

Lavon earned his Doctorate of Medical Dentistry from Oregon Health Sciences University, along with a Master of Science in Dentistry in Periodontics from the University of Washington in 1971. He returned to Boise to establish the first periodontics practice in Idaho, where he served generations of patients with care and dedication until his retirement in 2001. His life and work were centered around helping others, and he approached his profession with both skill and compassion.

Lavon proudly served as a veteran of the United States Air Force and cherished his deep, decades-long involvement in the Boise Bench Lion's Club, where he devoted over 53 years and thousands of volunteer hours to serving the community he loved.

In 1967, Lavon married Jan Myers Shelton in Pontiac, Illinois, after being introduced by mutual friends on a blind date. Their life together took them to San Bernardino, California, Seattle, Washington, and Bristol, England, before settling in Boise, where they built a home and raised their family. For years they welcomed family and friends from near and far, especially to their beloved cabin in Donnelly, Idaho, a place of joy, connection, and countless memories.

Lavon is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Jan; his daughter Jill Elizabeth Shelton Wagers and her husband David Wagers, along with their children Kade, Savannah, and Delaney; and his son Brett Eugene Shelton and his wife Teresa Gabiola Shelton, and their sons Zane and Dax. He also leaves behind several cousins with whom he remained especially close throughout his life.

Shelly had a natural gift for fixing things mechanical, electrical, or otherwise. A "handy man's handyman," he was curious, clever, and resourceful. He enjoyed hunting trips with lifelong friends, restoring classic cars from his youth, listening to 50s and 60s music, and offering quiet, steady support to his family. He was known for his strong moral compass, his kind and generous spirit, and his deep belief in the Golden Rule, values he lived by every day and instilled in those around him.

Lavon Shelton leaves behind a legacy of love, service, and integrity. His ashes will be placed at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Lavon's name may be made by contacting the Boise Bench Lion's Club, an organization that was dear to his heart.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the [Sympathy Store](#).

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