|  |
| --- |
| **Kent Eric Johnson (1959 - 2018)** |
| https://cache.legacy.net/legacy/images/Cobrands/HeraldNet/Photos/Johnson_KentEric_20180916.jpghttps://cache.legacy.net/legacy/images/Cobrands/HeraldNet/Photos/Johnson_KentEric_2_20180916.jpgMay 10, 1959 - September 6, 2018 With sad hearts - we have lost a very dynamic and caring father, husband, grandfather and friend. Kent passed away after a brave battle against a glioblastoma brain tumor at age 59 - far sooner than what he had left to give to us all. In his wallet he carried a note that represented his philosophy: Be great at what you do and put in [more energy](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/heraldnet/obituary.aspx?pid=190233655) than you withdraw. This represented the high standards that he held himself to. He leaves behind his love since age 16 and wife of 39 years, two children and their spouses and a grand-daughter and one especially beloved cat. Though he was saddened that he'd be missing out on life that was still yet to come, his sentiment, echoed by John McCain, was: "Don't feel bad for me - I've had a wonderful life". Kent endured his aggressive debilitating disease with dignity and strength. Kent, a man of never-ending energy, can also be described by the quote: "Some lives are so vivid, it is difficult to imagine them ended. Some voices are so vibrant and distinctive, it is hard to think of them stilled. A man who seldom rested is laid to rest. And his absence is tangible, like the silence after a mighty roar." Kent was a gifted and fearless skier, being most happy nuking groomers, slaying gnar and dropping friends on powder days. He was an enthusiastic and loved head coach for the Husky Ski Team and a fixture on the collegiate circuit. He loved every moment with his "kids" and all those involved in putting on a successful and exciting race. As well as passing on his love of skiing, Kent was known for mentoring, writing letters of recommendation and encouraging UW skiers to grow into the wonderful people he knew them to be. An aerospace engineer, he graduated from Montana [State University](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/heraldnet/obituary.aspx?pid=190233655) in 1981 and was a fraternal SAE brother. Kent had a very rewarding career at Boeing for 38 years. He was known for his strategic planning and respected for his knowledge that took him through many [programs](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/heraldnet/obituary.aspx?pid=190233655), culminating in his role as Structures Design Chief Commercial Airplanes. He'll be remembered as a mentor and advocate for many and strong-minded when trying to influence what he believed were the right pathways. He was valued for his positive leadership of the structures design community and his legacy of striving for technical excellence. Kent was born in Missoula, MT and raised in Great Falls, MT. He leaves behind his wife, Cindy; daughter, Anique (Keely Kinsman); son, Matthew (Renee Harkins); and granddaughter of three months, Kennedy Anne Johnson. As well, he leaves his sister, Kristine Johnson (TJ), who helped [guide](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/heraldnet/obituary.aspx?pid=190233655) him through his fight against this very devastating type of cancer; plus his loving nephews and nieces, Elias, Esme, Solveig, Isak, Joey Hirsch and Emily Service. He also will be missed by his sister-in-law, Karen Service; and father-in-law, Paul Prociv; and many many relatives and friends not named but were very dear to his heart. With his passing, Kent joins his parents, Rodney and Shirley Johnson; brother, Kirk Johnson; and beloved aunts, Marilee Johnson and Billie Spencer; and uncle, Bob Franklin. As Kent was told July 3rd 2017, the eve of his brain surgery: "You've always been a wise owl and taken care of us - now it's time for us to take care of you". Though the journey did not end as we had hoped, we felt blessed to return your loving care. We'll miss your wise counsel and will keep your incredible spirit with us always. A celebration of a life well-lived is being planned. In [lieu](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/heraldnet/obituary.aspx?pid=190233655) of flowers, please consider donating to an animal rescue, cancer research charity or the Husky Ski Team.Published in The Herald (Everett) on Sept. 16, 2018 |