

# ***Grand Marshals***

## **Dawson Trucking Inc., DTI Ready Mix & the Dawson/Holz/Wilks Families**



Left to right: Dawn's brother, Ed & wife Jerri Holz, Duane & wife Shannon Dawson, Denny Dawson, Kay & Doug Dawson, and Dawn's sister Terri & husband Bruce Wilks

This year we honor the families of Dawn Dawson, who have continued Dawn's Mission and Vision for the Valley Community.

Dawson Trucking Inc. and DTI Ready Mix Co. and the Dawson/Holz/Wilks Families would like to express our gratitude for being voted Grand Marshals of the 2023 Valley Community Fair. It's a great honor and we are truly excited to take part in this celebration. In Memory of Dawn.

Denny, who grew up on a farm on Deer Creek Rd. remembers it like yesterday. A new family just moved to Valley. It was the summer of 1959 and the news around town was that Al and Arlene Holz and their 4 children, Yvonne (late), Dawn, Ed, and Terry, were to stay and planned on making it their long term home. Al Holz, a talented cat skinner, was recruited to Valley to develop the original rock quarry for Lane Mt. Co. The Holz family was welcomed to Valley with open arms and it didn't take long for word to get out that Mr. and Mrs.

Holz had daughters.

Fast forward a few years, Denny is now dating Dawn and after a few years of courtship, the couple married in Valley in 1965. In the meantime, Terry becomes best friends with local girl Jerri Thompson. Ed, finding the energetic personality of Jerri irresistible, were also married in 1972 in Valley, WA.

Throughout the years the Dawson/Holz families have remained very close. This close knit family has felt a connection to Valley so much so that the desire to live anywhere else never crossed their minds. In fact, the family welcomed a new member when Terry married Bruce Wilks in 1987.

Denny, Dawn, Ed, Jerri, Bruce and Terry enjoyed countless Friday night dinners together, vacations and even a cross country trip with classic cars exploring old route 66.

In 1978, with Denny's strong work ethic and Dawn's vision, Dawson Trucking, Inc. was formed. Denny and Dawn continued to dedicate all of their time and energy to the business, while at the same time raising two sons, Doug and Duane. For more than 30 years Denny and Dawn successfully operated the growing company up to the point where Doug and Duane were ready to take it over.

During the time of ownership transition, around 2008, Doug and Duane added DTI Ready Mix division to Dawson Trucking Inc. Denny, not able to shake off that strong work ethic thing, continues to work for his sons while Dawn had another idea up her sleeve. Doug's wife, Kay, taking over the job of head bookkeeper for Dawson Trucking Inc. / DTI Ready Mix, allowed Dawn to officially retire.

Dawn loved the town of Valley and the local community. With the Lord's help, Dawn came up with the idea of a train station. She would call it Valley Station Square. With the help of Denny, Doug, Duane, and others, her vision began to take shape. Her desire was for people to have a love for Valley the way she did. She wanted a place for family to gather, for local kids to come and have fun, and for groups to meet and spend time together. Dawn loved to be where the action was. A gift shop she would call Bells and Whistles would be perfect. Dawn recruited Barb Edwards to come sell and enjoy each other's company. After 8 years, Barb went to do other things. Dawn then turned the gift shop into an art gallery for a couple years. She loved to paint but decided it was time to quit and went back to having a gift shop. Dawn was so excited when she talked her sister, Terry, into helping her. They had some wonderful times together. They would start laughing until tears ran down their faces.

Sadly, we lost Dawn on May 8<sup>th</sup> 2021 to a short illness, but her love for Valley and the community still lives on today. On behalf of Dawson Trucking Inc. / DTI Ready Mix and the Dawson, Holz and Wilks families, we again want to express our gratitude for being votes Grand Marshals of the 2023 Valley Community Fair.