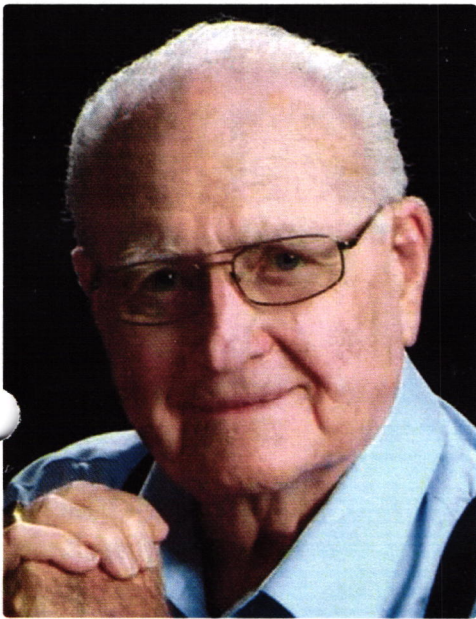


EAST OREGONIAN

Melvin Lane 'Mel' Bates

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Bates

On October 20, 2017, our family lost an amazing man. Melvin Lane "Mel" Bates, 90, surrounded by loved ones, passed away peacefully at St. Anthony Hospital.

Mel was born in Spokane, Washington, on May 9, 1927, to Lyle and Nellie (Davis) Bates. He grew up in Opportunity, Washington, and graduated from West Valley High in 1946.

Mel served in the Navy before marrying Mary Lee Bennett in Vancouver, Washington, on August 23, 1947. He attended Linfield College, completing his education with a Masters in Education in 1960.

Mel and Mary enjoyed their four children. The family settled in Pendleton in 1963. Hunting and fishing were some of Mel's favorite pastimes. He enjoyed teaching and coaching at the high school level, in Lexington, Irrigon, Weston, Athena, Arlington and Stanfield. Mel retired from the Oregon Employment Division to a life of travel and adventure. He and Mary traveled to all 50 states, throughout Canada and Europe. If an activity included a grandchild, you would

always find them in the crowd.

He was preceded in death by his wife Mary, and his brothers Ed and Cameron Bates.

He is survived by his brothers Ken, Howard, and Frank Bates, and sister Joy Casey; children Dick (Cindi) Bates, Kathy (Lamont) Porter, Ron (Debbie) Bates and Margie Bates; nine grandchildren, Amy, Cory, Sheena, Vincent, Jefferson, Jordan, Cody, Jayda and Janelle; and eight great-grandchildren, Andi, Afton, Chloe, Kaylynn, Lucas, Simon, Boston and Carson.

Mel was a very caring, kind, compassionate and loving man. Everyone who knew him enjoyed his wonderful sense of humor. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

In lieu of flowers Mel requested a contribution to the charity of your choice.

Memorial service will be held at Burns Mortuary in Pendleton, Oregon, at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 4, 2017.

Burns Mortuary is in charge of arrangements. Sign the online condolence book at www.burnsmortuary.com.

