

# Bruce Roosevelt Burns

Pendleton

February 28, 1922-March 5, 2014

Bruce Roosevelt Burns passed Wednesday morning, March 5th, 2014, at St. Anny Hospital in Pendleton, Oregon. A celebration of his life will be held at Pendleton Pioneer Chapel in Pendleton Wednesday, March 12th at 11 a.m.

Bruce was born February 28, 1922, in Idaho Springs, Colorado. He and his mother, Helena, moved to eastern Colorado to a small town named McClave where he was raised by his mother and two aunts. Bruce went on to star in football and track and graduated from high school in 1939. He went on to college and graduated from Colorado State University in education, but his graduate degree was interrupted by World War II. The Army sent Bruce to Yale University for an accelerated course in engineering as he would go on to be a combat engineer in Germany. During that year at Yale he made the college football team.

As a combat engineer his job was to blow up German pillboxes and to clear minefields. He distinguished himself there by earning the Bronze Star for bravery while clearing minefields with a pitchfork while under fire. After the war Bruce completed his graduate work and earned a master's degree in education. He was hired by the Pendleton School District

in 1949 and spent his entire 33 years as an algebra teacher at both the junior high and Pendleton High School.

Bruce was always involved in his community as a member of Kiwanis, Habitat For Humanity, VFW, the Masons and the Shriners. He especially enjoyed membership in the Shriners and was involved with the many projects they do for children with medical needs. He was always quick to donate both time and money to many good causes in his community.



Burns

He loved to hunt and fish, ride snowmobiles and 4-wheelers and spent a lot of time in the hills and mountains of Eastern Oregon. Bruce was a good carpenter and built his own home here in Pendleton. He also accompanied his oldest son David to Scotland, Africa and Alaska for hunting and fishing adventures.

Bruce is survived by his wife Ila Mae; children Kathy (son-in-law Phil Houk), Dan and David; granddaughters Alysun, Jessica, Chelcie and Kacie; and a bunch of grandkids and great-grandkids.

The family asks that any donations be sent to the Shriners Children's Hospital, 3101 SW Sam Jackson Road, Portland, OR 97201. Bruce would have asked the public to be generous to the Shriners so no child ever has to pay a cent for the care they receive there.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

ks out at the encroaching Umatilla River on Monday  
ill sandbags, the water didn't end up endangering any

