

EAST OREGONIAN

Norman David Vorvick

Published on December 16, 2016 2:35PM

Last changed on December 16, 2016 3:40PM



Vorvick

Norman David Vorvick, 85, died December 9, 2016, at Legacy Hospital in Vancouver, Wash., after extended stays in hospitals.

He was born to Sigvart and Thea Vorvick in a Norwegian community in Otter Tail County, Minn. They moved from their dairy farm in Minnesota during the Depression to a mixed (livestock and produce) farm in Finley, Washington. Throughout his life, he was proud to be Norwegian, a farm boy, and to have worked as a carpenter starting at age 15.

He graduated from Kennewick High School. He received a B.A. in Education (Pacific Lutheran University); a M.Ed. in Guidance and Counseling (Washington State University); and an Ed.S. in Counseling Research (University of Northern Colorado). He enlisted in the Army during the Korean War.

Surprisingly, he met his wife, Carolyn Ann Pritchard, on a double date. Carolyn took one look at Norman, looked at her date, and said to herself: "I am with the wrong guy." Also attending PLU, she was able to get his class schedule from Admissions so she could just "happen to run into him" on campus. He had no idea.

They married in 1956 and shared a romantic love for over 40 years. Upon her death in 2000, he said: "I was proud just to be associated with her."

He worked in Washington schools from 1956-1965 teaching mainly math and sciences. He worked as a counselor at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton for over 30 years, and also taught prisoners at the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution. After retiring from BMCC, he performed house inspections and returned to working in carpentry until he truly retired.

Norman faithfully attended church in Pendleton and then in the late seventies began attending a house-church that grew to be Faith Center. When he moved to Washougal, Wash., he attended Calvary Community Church and was known for bringing root beer to his home group, and donuts to his Saturday morning men's group.

"I'm a believer!" he would say with a confident, exuberant smile. From a young age, Norman was a believer in Jesus Christ, and he knew he would go to heaven. Perhaps it was solely this faith or maybe the combination of his happy-go-lucky personality that allowed him to have such an ease about the challenges of life.

Norman was exquisitely, consistently hopeful. He had a remarkable appreciation for life. He was a man at peace with dying since age 50, but a man so enjoying life and wanting to continue living, that he took his many health issues in stride. He had a profoundly impressive attitude, and it was a blessing for those around him.

Like all of us, Norman was still human and imperfect, but he was a good man.

Around 2011, he said: "I finally bought the headstone." Norman had the stone inscribed for Carolyn: "An Amazing Woman." Though it would be years before his death, he had inscribed for himself: "A Man Blest Beyond Measure."

He had a late brother Phil Vorvick (Bonnie) and sisters Harriet Turik, Mary Ann Fenimore (Bob), and Leone Cummins.

He and Carolyn had four sons and one daughter: Paul (Andrea), Phil (Belenda), John (Melanie), Joshua (Jana), and Kari Vorvick.

And now the loved grandchildren: Jared, Kate Breault (Austin), Jenny, Jesse, Zack, Levi, Eli, Ezra, and Jagur Vorvick.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be given to the Compassion International child he sponsored, Miss Akinyi-Onyango, of Kenya (KE8090288) or Medical Teams International.

A celebration of life will be held at Pendleton Faith Center Wednesday, December 21st at 10 a.m. with graveside service to follow at Olney Cemetery.

We'll catch up with you later, Dad.



[Click here to find what's going on in Eastern Oregon](#)