

EAST OREGONIAN

William Weinke

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Weinke

William Weinke, a longtime wheat farmer of Pilot Rock, died peacefully Monday, April 16, 2018, in St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton. He was 94 years old.

Recitation of the Holy Rosary will be held Monday, April 23, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Burns Mortuary of Pendleton. Mass of Christian Burial will be Tuesday, April 24, 2018, at 10:30 a.m. in the St. Helen's Catholic Church in Pilot Rock. Interment will follow the Mass in the Olney Cemetery, Pendleton at 12:30 p.m. A luncheon will follow in the Pilot Rock Community Center at 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Weinke was born at home, March 1, 1924, in Nolin, Oregon. He was the son of Carl and Ella (Kurth) Weinke, their third of seven children. In 1930 the family moved from the farm in Nolin to the ranch in Pilot Rock. He attended an elementary country school at Plane View 32, Pilot Rock Junior High, and graduated from Pilot Rock High School in 1942.

He served in the Army Corps of Engineers during World War II in the Pacific Theater under General MacArthur. He served from June 7, 1944, until May 10, 1946. He was honorably discharged, receiving the following decorations and citations: Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal, Army Occupation Ribbon (Japan), American Theater Service Medal, and Asiatic Pacific Service Medal.

William returned home to marry his sweetheart, Paralee Cochran, on December 28, 1946, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Pendleton. He began farming and harvested his first wheat crop in 1950, and continued farming until his last wheat crop in 2010, a total of 60 years. He was devoted to the raising of his family.

He enjoyed the Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon, 2A state basketball tournaments, drives to the mountains, a good western movie (John Wayne, a favorite), trips to Reno, and many dances with Paralee. Long before and long after watching his own family play sports, he was a spectator in the stands. He took pride in seeing his children, grandchildren, and nieces and nephews play sports. William and his wife were founding members of the Pilot Rock Booster Club. He was an active member of St. Helen's Catholic Church in Pilot Rock. In addition, he was a member of PGG Cooperation, BPOE Pendleton Lodge, and served on the Pilot Rock School Board.

He is survived by his three children and their spouses: Elouise Kirsch (Tom), Madras, Oregon, Don Weinke (Denise), Pilot Rock, Oregon, and Janis Weinke, Phoenix, Arizona; three grandchildren, Allison Treloar (Mike), and Michael and Timothy Kirsch; two great-grandchildren, Jackie and Bruce Treloar; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his

parents, four sisters, and two brothers.

Contributions in his memory may be directed to either the Pilot Rock Booster Club or the Pilot Rock Education and Community Foundation. Contributions may be sent in care of Burns Mortuary of Pendleton, P.O. Box 489, Pendleton, OR 97801.

You may sign the register book or send condolences online at www.burnsmortuary.com. Burns Mortuary of Pendleton is in charge of arrangements.

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