

In Memory of...

Blanche Millis Sword



A dear lady, Blanche "Faye" Millis Sword has received her angel wings. On November 8, 2017 she passed away peacefully at her memory care home, Marjorie House, in McMinnville, from Alzheimer's related illness.

Faye was born on October 11, 1935, the sixth

child of Phillip J. and Blanche Bell Millis. Her sweet sister Mary would arrive five years later, and be her lifelong friend. Faye grew up in Vernonia and graduated with the Class of 1953. Her friends will tell you that she was always the nicest girl, and liked by all. Those traits stayed with her through her 82 years on this earth.

Faye was an active member of the First Christian Church and enjoyed teaching Sunday school and acting as wedding coordinator. She also loved making flower arrangements for Sunday services. In her community, she was very busy with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and she also coordinated 4-H groups for the children to enjoy. Children were her passion. She raised three children in the Vernonia

community, and was the town preschool teacher for 10 years, until her first grandchild was born. Many adults will still say Mrs. Sword was their favorite teacher. She always had a smile for everyone she met, and was truly a lovely lady.

Her children and grandchildren were her treasures, and she had a way of making every occasion extra special. Her children remember amazing treasure hunts on Sword's hill for their birthdays, and her grandchildren will share that a simple night at grandma's always involved treats by your bed and lots of laughter. Faye was appreciated by her family for her yummy biscuits and her exceptional skill at baking pies. She had a great love for chocolate, and always had a dish of candy to share with anyone who stopped by for a visit.

After leaving Vernonia, Faye lived in a beautiful home on the golf course in a senior retirement community in Woodburn, Oregon. She lived two streets away from her sister, Mary, and loved checking out estate sales and visiting the local nursery for flowers for her yard. She stayed there for several years before she moved to her memory care home. We are grateful for the many good years she enjoyed with family and friends before her Alzheimer's diagnosis.

Faye was preceded in death by her parents; her sisters Virginia and Dorothy; her brothers Phil and Max; her baby daughter Connie, and her son Max Sword. Faye is survived by her brother Gerald Millis (Donna) of Forest Grove; her sister Mary Weller (Jim) of Mesa, AZ; her son Scott Sword (Holli) of Sublimity; her daughter Kala Cota (Chris) of Vernonia; her grandchildren Billy, Orion, Talena, Kyle, and Kristin; and her seven great grandchildren. She will be

greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Private family graveside services will be held on November 25, 2017 at 12:00 pm at the Vernonia Memorial Cemetery with a Celebration of her life for family and friends at the Cabin in Vernonia from 1:00-3:00 pm.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to 'OHSU Foundation,' referencing the Max Millis Fund for Neurological Research and mailed to: OHSU Foundation, Mail Stop 45, PO Box 4000, Portland, OR 97208-9852.

To give online, use <https://www.onwardohsu.org/donation> and in the "I want to give to a specific fund or area not listed above," please note Max Millis Fund for Neurological Research - Fund #24569.



Alexander F. Sword



Alexander F. Sword, known to friends and family as Bill, passed away quietly at the Fircrest Memory Care Center in McMinnville following a brief illness on November 10, 2017 at the age of 86.

Bill was born April 18, 1931 the youngest child of Robert and Alice Sword in the Sword family farmhouse. Bill graduated from Vernonia High School in 1949 then enlisted in the U.S. Air Force where he was a tail gunner in B-45 bombers serving in England until 1954. After his enlistment Bill worked as a choker setter and scaler for Oregon-American Timber Co. then as a contract manager for Crown Zellerbach on the Vernonia tree farm. Bill started his own logging company in 1961 and worked there until his retirement in 1997.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents along with his sisters Roberta and Carol; his daughter Connie; and son Max. Bill is survived by his son Scott of Sublimity, Oregon; his daughter Kala Cota of Vernonia; five grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

No services are planned and a private interment will be held.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to 'OHSU Foundation,' referencing the Max Millis Fund for Neurological Research and mailed to: OHSU Foundation, Mail Stop 45, PO Box 4000, Portland, OR 97208-9852.

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The Victory

The fight is over, the battle's lost
With a thousand tears we paid the cost
Your memories died on the battlefield
So much anguish this war did yield

Through it all your constant smile
Day by day and mile by mile
The journey traveled with hope and faith
Blessed by God's unending grace

We'll soon gather as families do
And celebrate the beloved you
Tell stories about the life you led
And though more tears will be shed

Laughter too, as we recall
The way your life touched us all
There's victory against death's sting
In the joy your memories bring

We'll remember you and your love
Now and forever you'll be thought of
With gratitude for the lessons taught
Of grace in times when mercy's sought

And denied by life's turn of fate
You've conquered all at heaven's gate
The battle fought by His precious son
In God's promise the victory's won.

Written by a grateful daughter: Kala Cota

Where do you read the Voice?
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