

In Memory of...

Ben Soejima

April 30, 1923 - November 29, 2018



Family and friends remember Ben as a kind, generous, humorous, humble, and gentle man. He made friends with everyone. He loved his family, friends, gardening, sports, long walks through Eastmoreland, matsutake hunting, doing things for others, and giving away fortune cookies! Ben passed away peacefully November 29, 2018, at the age of 95.

Ben was born in Kerry, Oregon, on April 30, 1923. He proudly grew up in Vernonia. He attended Vernonia High School where he played football, basketball, softball, and was Student Body Business Manager. In April 2018, Ben was inducted into the Vernonia High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Every year he would look forward to seeing his high school friends at the annual Old Timers' Picnic, especially classmates from the Class of 1942. The people of Vernonia held a special place in his heart, and he generously donated to the new Vernonia Schools athletic facilities.

Right after high school graduation, along with the other Vernonians of Japanese descent, he was sent to the Minidoka, Idaho, internment camp. He joined the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, an all-Nisei Army infantry unit that fought its way across Europe during World War II. Ben served with the Military Police in France, Switzerland, Belgium, and Germany. In December of 2010 he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his service in the war.

Ben loved his work as a barber because it allowed him to socialize with his many friends. He was a very hard worker and owned and operated his own barbershop by age 24. Ben enjoyed working until he was 80 years young. There were many times he would drive to shut-ins, attending to those that were elderly or too ill, to give them their haircuts.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Frances Nobuko Soejima, who passed away in January 2016. He leaves behind three daughters, Carol (Gary Funatake), Audrey (Guy Watanabe), Colleen (Will Naemura); eight grandchildren, Bryan, Kristen (Anthony), Jill (Dan), Sarah (Alex), Kelly, Benjamin, William, and Robert; and three great grandchildren, Lindsay, Matthew, and Nathan.

The family and Ben are very thankful for his many wonderful caregivers throughout the years as well as those who cared for him at Russellville Park West.

Remembrances may be sent to Konko Church of Portland, 1330 SE 92nd Ave., Portland, OR 97216; Iko no Kai Bento Delivery Program, 1333 SE 28th Ave., Portland, OR 97214; or Vernonia High School Athletic De-

partment, 1000 Missouri Ave., Vernonia, OR 97064.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at noon, January 19, 2019, at the Montavilla Baptist Church, 9204 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland, OR 97216.



Ralph H. Sturdevant



Ralph H. Sturdevant, 92, a longtime resident of the Vernonia community, died Tuesday morning, January 8, 2019 at his home.

Services have been held.

Ralph Herbert Sturdevant was born November 30, 1926 in Portland, Oregon, the son of the late Herbert Hamilton Sturdevant and Alvina (Hagen) Sturdevant. At the age of six years old, he moved with his family to the Vernonia community, where he was raised and received his education, having been a graduate of the Vernonia High School Class of 1945.

He was a Veteran of World War II, having joined the United States Army on May 25, 1945 at Fort Lewis, Washington. Ralph served for 1 ½ years in the 508th MP BN, until he received his honorable discharge on November 18, 1946 at Fort Lewis, Washington at the rank of Private First Class. Ralph had received the Army of Occupation Medal (Germany); the European African Middle Eastern Service Medal, and the Victory Medal.

Ralph was united in marriage to Barbara Frances Clement on June 6, 1953 in Stevenson, Washington. They celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary this past June. Following their marriage they made their home in the Vernonia community, where they have resided since.

He had worked for his father, H.A. Sturdevant, at the Sturdevant's Service Station in Vernonia. In 1961, he and

Barbara purchased the business from his father, when the name became Ralph's Chevron Service Station. They owned and operated the station for 35 years until he retired in 1996.

Ralph was a member of the American Legion Post #119 in Vernonia and the Masonic Holbrook Lodge #30 A.F. & A.M. in Forest Grove.

He had served as a Vernonia School Board Member, a former volunteer and fire chief with the Vernonia Fire Department, and a volunteer with the Vernonia Cares Food Bank.

Among his special interests, he enjoyed supporting the Vernonia High School Athletics Programs and the Vernonia High School Booster Club.

Ralph was preceded in death by his parents Herbert and Alvina Sturdevant, and his sister Margaret Hartzell.

Survivors include his wife Barbara Sturdevant of the family home in Vernonia, Oregon; his four children and their spouses, Reese and Anne Sturdevant of Alamogordo, New Mexico, Dr. Marsha Sturdevant and Troy Goss of Birmingham, Alabama, Noell Sturdevant of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Royce Sturdevant and Rhonda Denino of South Windsor, Connecticut.

Also surviving are his 10 grandchildren and their spouses, Noel and Stephanie Sturdevant of Sierra Vista, Arizona, Dr. Ian Sturdevant of Alamogordo, New Mexico, Kensie Sturdevant of Cleveland, Ohio, Audrey Goss and Aaron Zucker of Chicago, Illinois, Lora Goss of Birmingham, Alabama, Mitchell Goss of Birmingham, Alabama, William and Amanda Sturdevant of Nicholasville, Kentucky, Tim Sturdevant of West Chester, Pennsylvania, Colleen Sturdevant of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Sarah Sturdevant of Warrington, Pennsylvania; his four great-granddaughters; and many nieces and nephews.

The family suggests that remembrances may be contributions to the Vernonia Cares Food Bank, PO Box 126, 627 Adams Avenue, Vernonia, OR 97064 or to the Vernonia High School Athletic Dept., 1000 Missouri Avenue, Vernonia, OR, 97064, in his memory.

To sign the online guest book or to send a condolence to the family go to www.fuitenrosehoyt.com.

Fuiten, Rose & Hoyt Funeral Home in Vernonia is entrusted with the arrangements.



Pearl Lenora Freeman

Pearl Lenora Freeman was born to Cort and Agnes Siedelman in Vernonia, Oregon, at the family home on October 19, 1931. She went to be with the Lord on the 1st day of December, 2018. She was 87 years old.

She attended the Vernonia Schools from 1st - 12th grades. Farming was her family's way of life and she and her younger brother Vernon helped their parents do everything, from gardening to caring for the animals. Pearl loved having horses and spent a lot of time riding. Immediately following high school, she married the love of her life, Herb Freeman, and they had five children.

Pearl worked at GAF while Herb dabbled in many different entrepreneurial adventures in the surrounding areas of Portland. In 1968 they moved to Central Oregon where they started a well known restaurant "Freeman's Drive-In." They began taking an interest in antiques and phased the restaurant out to try their hand at a mobile home park that they almost completely remodeled and upgraded in only one year. After one year there, they sold the park and moved to Grants Pass where they purchased a small acreage. They remodeled and sold a year later to be able to purchase 40 acres in Culver, Oregon, finally able to build a home from the ground up. They built and groomed the property for three years and then decided it was time to retire and do some snow birding. They purchased a lot in Yuma, Arizona and made many friends that they looked forward to seeing each winter.

Pearl was appropriately named "Perky Pearl" by her traveling friends, as she was always full of zest and had the most beautiful smile. Herb and Pearl would return in the summers to spend time with their children and many grandchildren and help with their homes and properties. Pearl loved being with her family. She loved her Lord and spent every morning with her Bible reading scriptures and praying. On Sundays you could find her cozy in her bed watching her favorite pastors on television.

Pearl is survived by her five children, Althea (Robert) Meyer, Peggy Cordiner, Randy Freeman, Nanette Smith, and Bernice Gates; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild; and her kitty companion Cola. She was preceded in death by her parents, brother, husband of 67 years, and two granddaughters.

In lieu of flowers send donations to the Humane Society of the Ochocos.

**Don't Sell it!
Pawn it!**
For fast cash!

Baseline Pawn, Inc.
2245 Baseline St., Cornelius
(Across from Fred Meyer)
503-530-8119
State Licensed PB-0388

Open
everyday
at 10 a.m.

Angel Memorials Headstones

Granite Markers & Monuments
971-344-3110

Locally owned in Vernonia
Serving NW Oregon
All Cemeteries Accepted
Order drawing at no charge online

www.angelmemorialshadstones.com

— A Trusted Name in Funeral Service —

**Fuiten, Rose & Hoyt
Funeral Home & Crematory**

2308 Pacific Ave.,
Forest Grove
503-357-2161

741 Madison Ave.,
Vernonia
503-429-6611

Jeff & Kathryn Hoyt

Family Owned & Operated
— Formerly Prickett's Mortuary —
Forest Grove Memorial Chapel
503-357-3126

To sign the online guest book or to send a
condolence to the family go to
www.fuitenrosehoyt.com