

Paul Vincent Thomason

April 1924 - Jan. 2016



Paul Vincent Thomason passed away on Jan. 13, 2016 in Scotts Valley, Calif. in the presence of loving family and friends. A Graveside Service with Military Honors will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2016 at 1 p.m. at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Baker City. A reception will follow at the home of LaVelle Woodcock following the service.

Paul was born on April 12, 1924 in Baker City, Ore. to Irene "Dot" Haas Thomason and her husband, George Elton Thomason. In his nearly 92 years of life, Paul served his country during World War II, pursued a career in the nuclear power industry, and nurtured a family of four children, nine grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

Paul was predeceased by his first wife, Ora Mae Whited Thomason, and his second wife, Betty Jane Burke Thomason. He is survived by his children Terry Thomason (Kathi), Elizabeth Taylor, Alfred Thomason (Connie), Sue Schewe, and their children and grandchildren. Also surviving are his step-children from his marriage with Betty, Jacqueline Crouthamel (Dan), Kathleen Burke, and Susan Cornell (Jeff).

Paul was a modest and unassuming man who accomplished much in his professional career. More importantly, he lived his personal life with great honor and principle. Throughout his long life, Paul epitomized the standard of a good and decent man. Paul showed unfailing loyalty and dedication to his family, honesty in all his dealings, uncompromising commitment to achievement through hard work, and generous kindness to everyone he met.

Paul grew up in humble circumstances during the great Depression on a small ranch outside of Baker City. Before he finished high school, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Like many did at the time, Paul joined the Navy to do his part in the national defense. While still a teenager, he found himself as a crew member on the USS Guadalcanal aircraft carrier battling a German submarine in the Atlantic Ocean. The German submarine's official designation was the "U-505."

In the ensuing fight, the U-505 was disabled and forced to the surface. Before the Germans could scuttle and sink the submarine, U.S. sailors set out to board and capture the vessel. Paul was among the boarders who attached a towline from the carrier to the submarine. The battle resulted in the U.S. Navy's only capture of an enemy combatant vessel on the high seas since the War of 1812. The U-505 is now on display in the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.

Paul never told his family of his part in the U-505 capture until his children discovered a small book of old photos from Paul's years in the Navy. Like always, Paul responded to their questions in humble and reserved terms. He told his children he was just like many other young sailors on that day. He said he was "scared," but he followed orders and did his best to be a good sailor.

Many years later, Paul's daughter, Sue, collected Paul's medals and old Navy uniform. Without telling Paul, she had them placed in a frame for display. When Paul learned what Sue had done, he was a little embarrassed. However, he remained proud of his years in service, and he was pleased that his family treasured the symbols of his time as a U.S. Navy sailor.

After WWII, Paul returned to civilian life in Oregon. There he met and wed a young rancher's daughter named Ora Mae Whited on May 9, 1947. In the following years, their marriage produced four children and saw Paul's entry into the emerging nuclear energy industry. After hard study and training, Paul began work as a reactor operator. Paul's successive promotions led the family to a progression of power plants in Washington State, Idaho, Ohio, and Nebraska. Over more than three decades, Paul rose in the industry to end his career as a highly respected manager of a major reactor facility.

Through these years, the family's greatest hardship was Ora Mae's long battle with multiple sclerosis. Ora Mae's MS first appeared in the late 1950's and gradually deprived her of mobility over the next 20 years until she passed away. Despite Ora Mae's progressive loss of mobility, Paul ensured she played a central role in all aspects of family life. Paul taught the children early to handle the household chores, and he took Ora Mae to Little League games, PTA meetings, and all the other activities of any young family. His continuing love for Ora Mae was clear to all who saw them together.

On July 10, 1981, Paul married Betty Jane Burke. Soon thereafter, they moved to Las Vegas to enjoy Paul's retirement. In April 2007, they moved from Las Vegas to Scotts Valley, CA to be close to daughter Sue. Sue helped Betty and Paul obtain a beautiful apartment in Oak Tree Villa, an assisted living complex. They greatly enjoyed the many activities, services and security available to them there. Betty enjoyed music and reading programs, and Paul enjoyed the Veteran's Group and social activities with the many other residents. With the help of daughter Sue and son Al, Paul was also able to travel to reunions and family events in Oregon and Arizona. He especially enjoyed being with his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Betty's health gradually deteriorated due to Parkinson's disease, and she passed away on Dec. 13, 2015. Paul's health also began to decline. He passed away on January 13, 2016 after suffering a bout with pneumonia.

For those who would like to make a memorial donation in memory of Paul, the family suggests either C.A.T.S at www.catsabouttown.org/about/ or any veterans program or charity of your choice. Online condolences may be shared at <http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com/>

Georgann (Georg) Crosby Koehler

March 1946 - April, 2016

Georgann (Georg) Crosby Koehler passed away on April 9, 2016 at Good Samaritan Hospital in Corvallis, Ore. A memorial get together for family will be held later this summer.

Georg was born on March 24, 1946 in Baker to Ernest E. and Evelyn Lilley Swiger. She graduated from Baker High School in 1964. She married James (Jim) Koehler in December of 1967 in Ontario. They had two sons, Jamie and Zane.

Georg had many interests and a zest for life. After high school she attended Eastern Oregon College for one year before she transferred to the School of Floral Design in Portland. Upon completion of Design School she moved to Boise, Idaho where she worked as a florist at Johnny Horn Flowers. After getting married, she and Jim moved to Newport until he got drafted. Then they moved to a base in Belgium. While stationed there, Georg was able to visit Irthlingborough, England, the birthplace of her grandfather.

After returning to the States, Georg and Jim moved to Eugene where they resided for 30 years and raised their children. She worked as an aide at an elementary school, making many close friends. When she retired, they moved to Coburg and served on the City Council.

She was most recently a resident of Siletz where she lived with her husband and owned a bakery with her son, Jamie. It was in this career that she was able to share her baking talent with family, friends, and the community. Her grandchildren loved to help her in the bakery and she loved their company.

She enjoyed the beach, spending time with friends and grandchildren, gardening, crocheting, sewing, painting, creating new recipes, making jewelry, and designing flowers and cakes for family and friends' weddings.

Survivors include her husband, Jim, and sons, Jamie (fiance' Pauline) and Zane (Amy); four grandchildren, Fisher, Zoey, Violet, and Finn Koehler; a sister and brother-in-law, Mary Lou (Swiger) and Cub Bare; brother-in-law, Don (Dinah) Koehler; and several nieces and nephews.

Georg's creative spirit and laughter will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Memorial contributions can be made to a charity of choice.

Blanie V. George

June 1930 - April 2016



Blanie V. George, 85, of Baker City, passed away April 15, 2016 at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Baker City. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, April 22 at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral with Father Robert Greiner officiating. A reception will follow at the St. Francis Parish Hall. The interment will be held in Kanosh, Utah.

On June 13, 1930, Blanie was born to Owen V. and Ethel (Wiley) George in Delta, Utah. He graduated from high school in 1948 from Delta, Utah and attended college. He then joined the Air Force and proudly served for 20 years retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. After retiring from the Air Force, Blanie went back to college and received a degree in Safety Engineering.

Blanie married Sally V. Snyder on December 6, 1953 in Waco, Texas and together they were blessed with five children. Sally passed away at an early age on February 8, 1985.

On June 14, 1986, Blanie married his second wife Joan Welter in Baker City. Joan had four children of her own.

In his spare time, he liked to go fishing and hunting. He also had a passion for education and learning, gardening, and especially for reading. Blanie was a member of the LDS church, American Legion, Trail Tenders, and he was a volunteer at the Leo Adler House. His work as a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force was one of his proudest life accomplishments and he enjoyed trading stories with friends.

Blanie is survived by his wife Joan George of Baker City, his son and daughter in-law, Bill and Barbara George of Wilsonville, son Steven George of Portland, son Ted George of Portland, daughter and son in-law Sarah and Todd Kohler of Boise, Idaho, son Robert George of Boise; stepson and daughter in-law Don and Jackie Welter of Bend, stepson and daughter in-law Jeff and Robin Welter of Portland, stepdaughter Mary Banta of Baker City, and stepson James Welter of Burns. Blanie is also survived by seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Owen and Ethel George, his first wife Sally and his siblings.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project or to a charity of one's choice through Gray's West and Company Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814. Please visit: www.grayswestco.com, to light a candle in memory of Blanie.

Loretta "Hope" Phillips

Jan. 1945 - April 2016



Loretta "Hope" Phillips of Pendleton, former longtime Boardman, was born on January 16, 1945 in Gooding, Idaho to parents, Herbert and Olive Wolfe Points. She died on April 14, 2016 in Pendleton at the age of 71 years.

Hope was raised in Haines until 1955 when the family moved to Baker where she graduated in the class of 1963 from Baker High School. She worked for a time as a waitress and then went to work as a bank teller at First National Bank. Hope married George Phillips in 1967 in Weiser, ID. They moved around to follow George as he worked construction for the railroad for several years. They moved to Boardman in 1974 and other than a brief period, they continued to live there until George passed away in 2011.

Hope worked in Boardman at City Hall, the local grocery store, and at Wilson's Willow Run Golf Course for 10 years. She moved to Pendleton in 2011 and has lived there since.

She became an active member of the Pendleton First Christian Church, and had been active in Tillicum Club, Eagles, VFW Auxiliary, C.W.F., Bell Choir, & Faithful Comfort Crafters. Hope enjoyed golfing, sewing and crocheting.

She is survived by her daughter: Lorie Case and her husband Tod, Pendleton; son: Dan Phillips and his wife Kelly, Klamath Falls; sisters Rosie Carter, Nampa, Idaho, Glenda Sather, Ontario, and Charlene Murray, Gillette, Wyoming; brother Herb Points, Payette, ID; grandchildren: Adrean, Johnny, Daniel, Brittany, and Miranda; great grandchildren: Elizabeth, Jaiden, Kloaic, and Olivia; special friends: Lydia Hull, Pam Fisher, and Marlene Bork; numerous nieces and nephews.

Hope was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, brothers: Dan, Pete, and Gary Points; sisters: Ella Bruner and Georgia Brooks.

A graveside service will be held on Saturday, April 23, 2016 at 10 a.m. at the Riverview Cemetery in Boardman, Ore.

A celebration of life service will follow at noon at the Pendleton Christian Church, 215 N. Main St., Pendleton, OR 97801.

In Lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Hope's memory to the Pendleton First Christian Church.

Please sign the online guest book at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, Ore. is in care of arrangements.

Death and Service Notices

Robert Andrew Brown, 84, of Baker City passed away April 14, 2016 at his residence in Baker City. Arrangements are being made through Gray's West & Company Pioneer Chapel. You may go to www.grayswest.com to light a candle in memory of Robert.

Jadene Profitt, 59, of Baker City, died on April 12, 2016 at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise, Idaho. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences may be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

Donald Christy, 89, of Baker City, died on April 13, 2016 at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise, Idaho. A private family graveside service was held at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Baker City, Oregon. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences may be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

Michael Linscott, 28, of Baker City, passed away at his residence on April 18, 2016. Arrangements are being made through Gray's West & Company Pioneer Chapel. To light a candle in memory of Michael, please visit: www.grayswestco.com.

Albert Owen, 72, of Baker City, passed away at his residence on April 18, 2016. Arrangements are being made through Gray's West & Company Pioneer Chapel. To light a candle in memory of Albert, please visit: www.grayswestco.com.

Frank DeBeney, 74, of Baker City, passed away at his residence on April 17, 2016. Arrangements are being made through Gray's West & Company Pioneer Chapel. To light a candle in memory of Frank, please visit: www.grayswestco.com.

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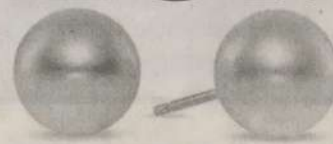
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Thursday, April 21, 2016

MOM



She's everywhere
you want her to be.

This Mother's Day, thank your Mom,
thank your wife ... because love takes Mom.

J. TABOR

JEWELERS

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