

# OBITUARIES

## PAID NOTICES

### Larry Ward



Larry Ward

Larry Neal Ward was born in Hanford, Calif., to Letha Barnett Ward and Cletus Ward on June 28, 1946. While growing up, he lived and traveled all over the United States.

Larry is survived by his wife Linda; daughter Lori Sandoz and husband Josh Sandoz; son Richard Ward; brothers Leon and wife Carrol Ward, Jerry and wife Pat Ward; and stepdaughters Sandra England, Leslie Seaborn, and Brenda Svoboda. Larry has 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Larry worked at Lockheed Martin, Aluminum Plant, Norris Industries, and retired from The Dalles Dam. Larry was a Veteran who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam war from 1965-1967.

Larry and wife Linda loved to fish and hunt, and in the later years, just went along to hunting camp to cook and visit. Larry was a family man, an amazing metal fabricator and mechanic, loved to practice bow shooting and work on his fishing equipment.

Larry peacefully passed into the loving arms of the Lord on Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2020, with his wife Linda and daughter Lori by his side.

A celebration of life has yet to be determined due to COVID-19.

### Darla Johnston



Darla Johnston

Darla Jean Johnston was born on July 5, 1945, in Phoenix, Ariz., to Daniel Ray and Mineola Mace. Her older brother, Ronald Ray Mace, passed away when he was only 13 years old and Darla was 8 years old. She then became the bossy oldest sibling to her two sisters, Janice Marie Roberts and Neola Lee Mace.

When she was 20 years old, Darla married Raymond Wesley Johnston in Phoenix. Ray and Darla moved to Forks, Wash., for a few years, and then moved to the Underwood, Wash., area where they raised their son, Jay Wesley Johnston, and daughter, Shawna Dee Johnston. Ray and Darla lived the rest of their lives in Underwood, with Ray passing away in 2006.

They both loved being part of the Underwood community, making life-long friends with the Sooters, Zieglers, Murrays, Yarnells and many other families.

They built their own house, working nights and weekends, while both were working full-time jobs. They often read books to learn about construction, particularly to learn about the plumbing and electrical work.

Darla loved playing pranks on people — like when her parents came to visit her and Ray in Forks, they dressed up to greet her parents as if they had decided to become hippies, complete with long hair, floppy hats, bell-bottoms, sandals and love beads.

Darla was never afraid to speak up for what she felt was right. She devoted her life to service to God and her family. Darla was a member of many congregations and served in many capacities, including teaching Sunday School, and managing a Vacation Bible School program for several years at Grace Baptist.

She loved her family unreservedly, and enjoyed taking care of her grandchildren whenever she had the opportunity. She unselfishly did end-of-life caregiving for her mother-in-law, her father, her husband and her mother.

One of Darla's first jobs was working at the Phoenix newspaper the Arizona Republic and Gazette, where she met her future husband, Ray Johnston. She attained dual Bachelor of Science degrees at Arizona State University in chemistry and biology, and started working as a medical technologist in Phoenix.

She also worked as a med tech in Aberdeen, Wash., and finished her med tech career working at Skyline hospital in White Salmon, Wash., for many years.

Darla always enjoyed teaching, beginning her teaching career in Phoenix teaching classes to other medical technologists. Later in life, she returned to school to obtain her teaching credential and then worked as a school teacher for junior high and high school. She taught many subjects in that role, from chemistry to the alternative school and to welding.

Darla studied voice and accordion in her youth, playing the accordion often and later gave accordion lessons. She directed many church choirs and special musical programs, and sang and played in many choir choirs. She also was a member of a professional choir in Phoenix which performed in formal clothes and long gloves. They appeared with various celebrities, including Dick Van Dyke. She sang with Sweet Adelines for many years. One of her favorite things was going to her daughter's restaurant in Hood River to listen to Moe Dixon perform on Wednesday nights.

Darla loved playing sports, and took every opportunity to play and to try something new, including some spontaneous midnight bowling when she lived in Phoenix. She played on a softball league for several years in Phoenix, and enjoyed fishing, camping, tennis and all water sports. In 2016, she was able to do stand-up-paddle boarding on her first attempt, while her two younger sisters watched her from the riverbank after their failed attempts.

Darla enjoyed travel, including trips to visit family in Iowa, New Mexico, Arizona and California. She was able to go on three cruises with her family to the Caribbean, Alaska and Nova Scotia, and on two trips to Hawaii with her sisters. She also took a trip to New York City to watch the ball drop one New Year's Eve.

She did many small acts of kindness, including paying a neighbor's electric bill when they couldn't afford it. She chaired and participated in innumerable fundraising events for good causes over the years. She loved being part of non-profit organizations in the Underwood area, serving on the CEKC-UCC Board of Directors and was the vice president of the Underwood Community Council. She was one of the founding members of the Underwood Community Gardens. She worked very hard on preserving the Community Center and the Underwood Park. One of the last items on her list was trying to help save the Stevenson pool.

She loved participating in the Underwood Book Club and often talked about the great women she got to know and the interesting books she was exposed to that she never would have read otherwise.

On her last birthday, Darla's children and grandchildren got together to celebrate her birthday. She appeared to be the picture of health, and was thrilled to be able to take a long motorcycle ride with her son on the back of his motorcycle.

Even though she did not have much notice, she was at peace with dying and was ready to be reunited with her parents, brother and husband. Those of you who knew Darla well will not be surprised that she shared some tips for her obituary before she died.

Darla passed away on Aug. 12, 2020, and was buried in the Underwood Chris-Zada Cemetery, the same place where she often donated her time to clean up and decorate graves.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in law, Jay and Laurie Johnston; her daughter and son-in-law, Shawna and Mike Caldwell; her sisters Janice Roberts and Neola Mace; grandchildren Wesley Johnston, Sophie Caldwell, Derrick Johnston, Griffin Caldwell and Taryn Johnston; her niece Tannya Roberts; and nephews Aaron and Ryan Roberts.

### Georgia Smith



Georgia Smith

Georgia M. Smith passed away peacefully at The Springs at Mill Creek in The Dalles, Ore. She was 84.

Georgia was born July 29, 1936, to parents Britani and Georgianna Bodwin in Beaumont, Texas. She had five siblings, Richard, John, Joe, Earl and Letha May.

Georgia graduated from Charleston Pollard High in Beaumont in 1955. She met Clifton Smith and they married April 23, 1957.

Shortly after getting married, Cliff and Georgia moved to The Dalles and started their lives together, raising four children.

She worked at The Dalles General Hospital in the early years. In 1983, Cliff and Georgia opened their first dealership, Cliff Smith Motors, in Hood River. They later added to their business in 1986.

Georgia enjoyed her family and friends, bowling, sewing, sports, going to church and attending her children's sporting events. Georgia attended St. Peter's Catholic Church for many years, where she introduced her family to the Lord.

Georgia was preceded in death by her parents, husband Cliff, and siblings Richard, Joe and Earl Bodwin. She is survived by her daughter, Stacey Howell, and sons Joe, Todd and Jeff. She also has seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Special thanks to the staff at The Springs at Mill Creek facility. They provided love and care to her every day.

The family had a private memorial on May 22 at St. Peter's Cemetery.

In loving memory of a special lady. You are loved forever and missed dearly!

### Anthony Sarsfield



Anthony Sarsfield

Anthony William Sarsfield was born in The Dalles, Ore., on Jan. 25, 1933, to Christine (Riddell) and Frank Sarsfield. He grew up in Centerville, Wash., where he lived most all of his life. He transferred for seventh grade to St. Mary's Academy in The Dalles when his family moved to The Dalles. He graduated salutatorian from The Dalles high school in 1952.

After high school, he was recommended to Annapolis, but chose to attend the University of Oregon, in Eugene, joining Delta Omega fraternity, and playing baseball. After his freshman year at U of O, he transferred to University of Portland, where he played basketball on the varsity team. He graduated from University of Portland in 1956 with a degree in accounting.

While in college, Anthony met Marilyn Winslow when they were in the same English class and the couple wed on Aug. 11, 1956. They lived on the family farm and were married for 56 years until Marilyn's death in 2012.

Anthony raised beef cattle and grew and sold alfalfa and winter wheat on the family homestead as was family tradition. He retired from the farm work at 82 years of age, saying he was tired of feeding cows in the winter. Anthony was a volunteer elected official school board member at the Centerville Elementary School for 36 years. He was a volunteer fire fighter at the Centerville Fire District. He was owner/manager of the Centerville Scale Cooperative for many years.

He was known in the area by many for his love of the game of basketball. He played for the Oasis Café Town Team, beyond his 50 years of age. After Town Team basketball, he continued his love for the game by sponsoring a recreational team in The Dalles called Sarsfield Cattle Company.

Anthony passed away in hospice care at the Goldendale Hospital on Aug. 29, 2020, at the age of 87. He will be missed by his daughter and son-in-law, Christine and Kevin Seed and grandson Patrick of Portland, and son and daughter-in-law George and Silvia Sarsfield and grandchildren Tanner and Ashlan, partner Mitch, of Salem, Ore. He was preceded in death by wife Marilyn, brother Francis, sister Katherine, grandchildren Shaina Sarsfield and Paul Seed.

Please send condolences to the Sarsfield family by visiting [www.gardnerfh.com](http://www.gardnerfh.com).

### Robert Brown



Robert Brown

Robert G. Brown, 86, a resident of The Dalles, Ore., passed away at his home on May 9, 2020, in the loving arms of his family. He was born in 1933, the third child to Dr. Albert and Helen Brown. He graduated from the University of Nebraska in Omaha with Business Administration and Engineering Degrees.

Robert, known as Bob, married Annabelle Nelson in Boone, Iowa in 1956. Their union lasted 60 loving years with six children.

Bob served his country in the U.S. Army from 1953-1961.

He was assigned to the 7811 Army Unit, and was stationed in Schweinfurt, Germany, during the Korean War.

Bob worked as a superintendent and engineer with Peter Kiewit & Sons in the states of Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Washington, and Oregon before taking a job with Tenneson Engineering as a civil engineer. Bob went on to become the elected Sheriff of Wasco County, serving from 1981-1985. After serving Wasco County, Bob went on to form his own construction business, working alongside his son Robert. He worked construction until becoming the engineer for the City of The Dalles. In retirement, he started a snow removal business in Burns, Oregon working alongside his son Michael.

Bob loved to spend time with his family and friends. He was an avid hunter, fisherman, bird watcher, and reader. Bob was a pilot, owning several airplanes during his lifetime. In his younger days, he loved to scuba dive and compete in competitive waterskiing events. He thoroughly enjoyed his deep-sea fishing trips at the Oregon Coast. Bob was a very caring and loving husband, father, and friend. There was nothing that Bob would not do for his family, friends, and neighbors. Bob was a member of the Elks Lodge No. 303 for more than 50 years. He was the Exalted Ruler on two separate occasions, and served as a Trustee for many years.

Bob is survived by his children, Christine Borg (Karl), Hillsboro, Robert (Bob) F. Brown (Dorene), The Dalles, Kathy McBride (Dave), The Dalles, Kim Snyder (Joe), Condon, and Deanne Witter (Duane), The Dalles; sister Peggy Doughty, Pinckneyville, Ill.; 20 grandchildren, 37 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild; and numerous nieces and nephews. He also leaves behind many other relatives and good friends. Bob was preceded in death by his parents, brother, wife, son, granddaughter, and great granddaughter.

Recitation of the Holy Rosary will be said at 10:30 a.m. on Sept. 15 at St. Peter Catholic Church, 1222 W. 10th St., The Dalles. A Funeral Mass will follow at 11 a.m. Rite of Christian burial will be a private ceremony held at the Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Ore.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Bob's name to St. Peter Catholic Church, P.O. Box 41, The Dalles, OR 97058, or St. Vincent de Paul, P.O. Box 553, The Dalles. To leave condolences and/or memories, please visit [www.tributes.com](http://www.tributes.com).

## Columbia Gorge News obituary policy

Obituaries, death notices and service announcements must be publication-ready; Columbia Gorge News may edit for AP style and grammar.

For the Wednesday edition, obituaries, death notices and service announcements must be received by noon on Monday.

Deadline is subject to change with holiday editions.

### Cost

- One photo and 250 word maximum, \$100
- One photo and 500 word maximum, \$200
- One photo and 700 word maximum, \$300

Obituary word count is approximate and will also allow for two photos with an adjusted word count. Contact Trisha Walker, [trishaw@gorgenews.com](mailto:trishaw@gorgenews.com), for more information.

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