

OBITUARIES

Richard Ross Ralls
Medford
March 28, 1937 — April 26, 2019



Richard Ralls

Richard Ross Ralls passed away on April 26, 2019, surrounded by beloved family. He will be remembered most for his devotion and life-long service to God, as well as his love for family and friends.

Richard was born in Los Angeles on March 28, 1937, to Ernest E. and Opal Ross Ralls. He and his family enjoyed living in Topanga Canyon, California, until they moved to Medford, Oregon, in 1949. Richard graduated from Crater High School in 1955, and in 1959 graduated from Prairie Bible Institute in Alberta, Canada.

In 1960, he enlisted in the Navy, where he spent four years as an electronics technician, rising to the rank of E-5. Richard returned from his service in the Navy and met the love of his life, Marcia Wine.

They knew that God had brought them to each other, and on June 28, 1965, they were married in Ashland, Oregon. The couple had the privilege to choose their children, and in 1971, Pete and Emily completed their family.

They started their ministry in 1965, and Richard served as pastor of Central Point Assembly of God until 1987. In addition to serving as

pastor, in 1977 Richard founded the Central Assembly Christian School. They next pastored for five years in Madras, Oregon, before taking on his last calling in 1992, as pastor of Seaside Assembly of God.

After 52 years in the ministry, Richard retired and in 2017 moved back to the Rogue Valley. His last sermon, delivered April 23, 2019, are words to live by. The three-word message was simple: “Speak the Truth.”

He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Wanda. Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Marcia; his children, Peter and his wife, Kristi, and their six children, and Emily and her husband, Paco, and their two children. Six great-grandchildren brought additional joy. Two sisters, Joy and Lois, also survive.

A second memorial service will be Saturday, May 18, at 1 p.m., at Seaside Assembly of God, 540 S. Holladay Drive, in Seaside, Oregon. Burial will be at Eagle Point National Cemetery in Eagle Point, Oregon.

Those who wish may make memorial contributions to Wycliffe Bible Translators — making Christ known in the written word followed his life’s call (hwycliffe.org/donate).

Martina Abraham Nelson
Clatskanie
Feb. 28, 1941 — May 7, 2019



Martina Nelson

Martina Abraham Nelson was born on Feb. 28, 1941, and raised in Angaur, Palau.

In Guam, on Oct. 20, 1972, she married Kenneth F. Nelson. They moved to Portland, Oregon, in 1975, and settled in the Astoria-Warrenton area in 1977.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth F. Nelson, and her daughter, Nancy N. Nelson-Smith.

Most important to Martina was her family. Although she was passionate, too, about softball, billiards, fishing, the Catholic Daughters of America and, of course, making sure that everyone has been fed.

Martina’s deep love for softball found its way into each generation after her, and her serious aptitude for billiards made her known as a bit of a pool shark on both sides of the Columbia. She was also involved with St. Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Astoria, Oregon, which led her to finding peace as a member of the Catholic Daughters of America. Through these social avenues Martina cultivated many lifelong friendships.

For a number of years in the 1990s, Martina and her husband owned The Schooner Tavern, and operated it in the heart of downtown Astoria with the help of their daughters, Tony, Nancy and Trina. After Ken fell ill and passed away in May 1999, Martina left the business

and turned all of her focus to her family. She was best friend to many, and the greatest grandmother.

Martina is survived by her daughters, Antonina Cecil (Terry), of Astoria, Oregon, Katrina Nelson (Gregg), of Clatskanie, Oregon, and Monaliza Olivari (Yuri), of Miami Springs, Florida; her son, William Abraham, of Palau; her granddaughters, Kira Haukikenziro (Stephen), Mariama Ramarui (Mikey), Britney Carpenter (Dan), Maxene Manley (Joey), Yuliana Olivari and Jessika Manley; her grandsons, Tyler Cecil, Justin Haukikenziro (Mami), Manuel Nelson and Daniel “Aribuk” Smith; her great-grandchildren, Maileigh, Bailey and soon-to-be Tristan; as well as an innumerable amount of other “kids” who so affectionately referred to her as “Grandma,” “Auntie” or “Mamang Tina.”

A public viewing will be held for Martina at Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary, 1165 Franklin Ave., Astoria, Oregon, on Saturday, May 18, 2019, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., followed by an optional short service at the same location, and a potluck reception from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Astoria Armory, 1636 Exchange St. Bring your favorite dish and your best Martina memories!

Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements. Please sign our online guest book at caldwellsmortuary.com

Yvonne Luchs McCann
Astoria
April 14, 1920 — March 29, 2019



Yvonne McCann

Yvonne Luchs McCann was born in Beaverton to Agnes (Kennedy) and Henry Luchs. Henry arrived as a young man from Switzerland, and settled in Oregon.

When Yvonne was a child the family briefly lived in Knappa, where her father was a logger, but mostly she grew up in Portland. Henry became a golf course groundskeeper, and later was a landscaper at the new Lloyd’s Center. The family grew to eight children.

Yvonne trained as a nurse during the war years, and married her sweetheart, Gene, in 1944. Gene flew on bombing missions out of England, and when the number of missions was met, plus a few more, his service time was fulfilled and he returned home.

The couple first lived in Portland, then Salem, then Bay City and in 1954 left Oregon with their six children — three boys and three girls — for Southern California, where Gene had a brother who wanted him to come join him.

About 10 years later the family moved again, this time to Northern California, and from there to the Bay Area, settling in San Leandro and Fremont until early retirements. Gene and Yvonne then returned to Oregon, minus all of the children, who stayed on in California.

Gene opened an automotive repair shop in Beaverton, with Yvonne as the office person. The three sons eventually joined the couple, and it was a family-run business. The shop still exists today, in Hillsboro, with one of the sons, Bob, running it.

Retiring again, the next move was to Nevada for a couple of years. Then back to Oregon, this time Astoria, in the early 1980s, to be near Gene’s sister, Sister Patricia McCann, who at that time was a caregiver for two elderly ladies and was a catalyst for the establishment of many senior services that exist in Astoria to this day. Sister Pat had also been a teacher at St Mary’s.

In the late 1980s or so, the two-story wooden house that all of them were living in was burned down by a firebug who was plaguing Astoria at the time. None of them recovered

from that tremendous loss.

Sister Pat eventually went back to the mother house in ill health, and Gene and Yvonne moved to Svensen, where they became very active in volunteer work for both the Brownsmead and the Wickiup granges, and even once a year at the Olney Grange for their annual pit beef dinner fundraiser.

Yvonne, at the same time, volunteered at the senior lunch sponsored by NorthWest Senior and Disability Services at the Wickiup Grange every Wednesday, and at the food bank in Knappa. They were both semi-active in church activities.

In 2011, Gene died, and Yvonne moved to St. Helens to live with her daughter, Kathie. A few years later she moved back to Astoria, where she remained until 2018, when her health started deteriorating. Lack of openings for assisted care in Astoria saw her return to St. Helens and nearby towns.

As her health improved, she was pondering a return to Astoria, when she suddenly took a turn for the worse and died in hospice on March 29, due to complications of diabetes.

An avid follower of naturopathic remedies and the Atkins (carb-free) Diet for decades, she mostly did not take prescription drugs until the last year of her life.

She is survived by one remaining brother, Mike Luchs, of Portland; a foster brother, Lloyd Krause, of Beaverton; eight children, Jim, Carol, Joanie, Don, Kathie, Bob, Ron and Susen; several grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral mass is at St. Francis de Sales Mission, 867 Fifth St. in Hammond at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 18, with a reception afterwards at St. Mary, Star of the Sea auditorium at 14th Street and Grand Avenue in Astoria.

Inurnment of her ashes will be private, at the Willamette National Cemetery, where she will be joining her husband of 67 years.

Donations, in lieu of flowers, may be made to St. Mary, Star of the Sea, or the NorthWest Senior and Disability Services senior food program, or to the Astoria Senior Center, where Yvonne was a member.

OBITUARY POLICY

The Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at DailyAstorian.com/forms/obits, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria.

For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.



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