

OBITUARIES

Marion 'Dennis' Williams

Aloha

March 23, 1953 — May 14, 2019



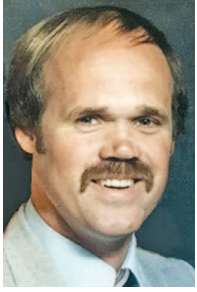
Marion "Dennis" Williams, age 66, of Aloha, Oregon, passed away on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, in his home.

Dennis was born March 23, 1953, to Percy and Dorothy Williams in Astoria, Oregon. After graduating from Warrenton High School, Dennis served in the Army for four years.

Shortly after being honorably discharged, Dennis met the love of his life, Jodi Nickens, at a Wednesday night Bible study. Dennis and Jodi knew they were going to get married after only knowing each other for 11 days, and officially married on Nov. 13, 1982.

In the mid-1980s, Dennis and Jodi volunteered at the Astoria Rescue Mission, where they served meals and Dennis led worship songs for their services.

Dennis had a strong passion for all things aviation. He enjoyed spending time flying from a young age, and never missed an air show in 27 years. He enjoyed launching rockets with his kids and flying remote-controlled airplanes. He received his pilot's license from Astoria Flight Service in high school, and loved taking Jodi on scenic rides. Among Dennis' many talents, he was also



Marion 'Dennis' Williams

an auto mechanic, and worked for Aircraft At Your Call at Hillsboro Airport, Flight Craft at Portland International Airport and Napa Auto Parts for over 20 years.

Together, Dennis and Jodi had the opportunity to attend the Billy Graham crusade in Portland and sing in the choir.

Dennis was diagnosed with Parkinson's in his early 40s. Despite being diagnosed at such a young age, he continued working and being there for his children and family.

Dennis is survived by his wife of 36 years, Jodi Anne Williams; father, Percy Elliott Williams; sister, Linda Hawkins (Patrick); brother, Vernon Edward Williams; six children, Justin Elliott Williams (Steffini), Brandon David Williams, Aaron Richard Williams, Vanessa JoyLynn Williams, Christina Loraine Syed (Amar) and Nathan Edward Williams; two grandchildren, Emillia Rose Williams and Sofia Lynn Williams; and numerous aunts, cousins, nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Dennis' life will be held at Pegg, Paxson Springer Funeral Chapel in Beaverton, Oregon, on Saturday, June 15, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Neal A. Wyatt

Seaside

Nov. 26, 1955 — March 23, 2019

Neal A. "Andy" Wyatt passed peacefully on Saturday, March 23, 2019, at his home in Seaside, at the age of 63, surrounded by his family.

He is survived by his wife, Angeline. He was the loving father of Gabriel and Jonathan, and proud grandfather of Lillian and Levi.



Neal A. Wyatt

Andy will be fondly remembered by family and friends as a loving father, distinguished mental health counselor, sharp-witted, hunter and fisherman.

Memorial services will be held on Saturday, May 25, 2019, at 2 p.m., at Cannon Beach Community Church, 132 E. Washington St. in Cannon Beach, Oregon.

Port: Stevens recently became more critical of Knight's performance

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Compared to fellow commissioners, Hunsinger and Rohne recently handed Knight a lackluster evaluation over his treatment of tenants at the East Mooring Basin and other setbacks, including a legal defeat in a lawsuit over operation of the Astoria Riverwalk Inn. A jury found Knight made fraudulent statements to a potential operator, while a judge called Knight's testimony in the lawsuit not "particularly credible."

McClaine declined to comment on Knight's management but said he will keep his eyes open.

"He's genuinely concerned about the operation of the Port," McClaine said of Knight. "I can see that. I can also see, in other conversations I've had with him, he's holding some cards closely that, as an employee, I had no business knowing about. I just knew there were cards."

Port Commissioner Robert Stevens, a retired Coast Guard captain appointed in 2017 to Position 4, was unopposed in the election. He has also recently become more critical of Knight's performance, as customers come forward and complain of a lack of responsiveness from Port staff.

This year's Port Commission race was quiet compared to two years ago, when the agency had three hotly contested campaigns. Voters handily elected Commissioner James Campbell and Dirk Rohne and Frank Spence over Commissioner Stephen Fulton and Dick Hellberg and Pat O'Grady. Fulton, Hellberg and O'Grady had formed an alliance critical of Port management and Knight, while Campbell, Rohne and Spence lauded staff's performance.



Robert Stevens

The winners on Tuesday will take on oversight of a Port facing a \$20 million maintenance backlog on its crumbling World War II-era infrastructure. The

Port Commission will soon review the draft of a strategic business plan three years in the making. The plan is required to get more money from the state to help fix its docks.

Hunsinger's term ends in July. He could resign at a Port Commission meeting June 4 before leaving to Alaska for the commercial salmon fishery and to give McClaine a head start.

But the public should still expect to see him overseeing the Port in any capacity he can, Hunsinger said.

"I will continue the fight just as hard, whether I'm an elected official or not," he said, "because I feel I've let the public down."

Festival: 'We do have plans to come back bigger and better in 2020'

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Lutheran Church, Clatsop Community College's Performing Arts Center and Grace Episcopal Church.

"Yes, it is still happening. But it's just going to happen in a little more intimate of a setting for this year and focus on the work of the young artists and get it more out into the community rather than centering everything at the Liberty," Guidi said. "We do have plans to come back bigger and better in 2020."

When organizers of the three-week festival missed deadlines in April to book the Liberty stage and the theater decided to fill those slots with other performances, people worried the festival may not happen at all.

Conductor Keith Clark, the festival's artistic director, insisted in April that performances would proceed at the Liberty at the end of June. But the festival remained largely uncommunicative with the the-

ater about its plans, Crockett said.

The Liberty Theatre has been a key venue since the founding of the Astoria Music Festival in 2003. Guidi still hopes to be able to hold at least one festival performance at the Liberty this year.

Fundraising issues are the primary reason the festival will not be as big next month as in prior years.

"There are more nonprofits around than when we first started and a lot of people's attention is getting divided among the newer stuff versus the older stuff," Guidi said, adding, "It's just a little more of a competitive market to get some of the donations that once came rather easily."

For now, Guidi says festival organizers will be putting out more information about performances and concerts soon. Student performers are expected to arrive around June 12. The first concerts will likely occur during the week of June 16.

The Astoria Music Festival usually runs for three weeks at several different venues. It is one of only a handful of summer classical music festivals in Oregon and has long been well-regarded, able to draw world-renowned performers and provide a significant economic boost to local businesses.

For many years, the festival was the main event at the Liberty each June. In recent years, however, the Liberty started producing its own classical series and shows to run throughout the year and broadened its offerings in general.

"The festival was certainly one of our largest rentals and it hurts to lose it, but it's not devastating to us," Crockett said.

Still, the festival remains important to the community and to the many professionals who perform in it, Crockett said. She hopes organizers will be able to regroup.

"Hopefully they can come back stronger next year," she said.

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