

OBITUARIES

**Lee Hughes**  
Astoria  
Dec. 8, 1937 — June 10, 2021



Master Chief Petty Officer Lee Hughes, 83, passed away, with a family member and a friend by his side, on June 10, 2021, in the middle of the night, after battling advanced stage colon cancer.

Lee Hughes was born in Dallas, the son of Leroy and Verda Hughes. He attended his first years of school in Falls City, before his family moved to the logging town of Valsetz.

Lee attended school in Valsetz until his freshman year in high school. That year, his father sent him to Dallas, where he stayed with his Uncle Walter and Aunt Dolly, so he could play football. While attending Dallas High School, Lee played basketball, baseball and football. Football was his favorite.

Lee left high school to enlist in the U.S. Navy in 1954, attending boot camp in San Diego, California. His advanced training took place in Norfolk, Virginia. He also attended schools for aviation, gas handling, career counseling, military leadership, trade school and many others.

Lee served his country in the Navy for 30 years as a machinist. During this time, he completed his high school degree, and married Tomiko Gohara on June 26, 1959. Lee earned the rank of E-9 (master chief petty officer). During his time of service, Lee and Tomiko lived in San Diego, Seattle, Virginia, Guam, Japan and Hawaii.

After retiring from the military, Lee and Tomiko moved to Portland, where Lee worked for General Electric Co. for a short time. Their next move was to San Diego, where Lee worked at Scripps Hospital for 21 years in the maintenance department. He also owned and operated a pet store for several years during this time in San Diego.



Lee Hughes

“Popeye,” a yellow-naped Amazon talking parrot, became one of Lee’s favorite friends. Lee brought him home from the pet store when no one else wanted him. Popeye liked Lee alone. He was a one-man pet, with no love for Tomiko. Lee had Popeye for 25 years.

Lee finally retired, and he and Tomiko hit the road, traveling by RV for a year in a 40-foot motor home with two dogs and Lee’s parrot, before settling in Reedsport in September 1994. Lee missed hunting and fishing and Tomiko was ready for a permanent home. They purchased a home at River Bend Mobile Park Resort.

Lee kept busy fishing, hunting and volunteering in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Salmon Trout Enhancement Program, and occasionally visited the local casino to test his luck. Watching sports on TV was an important part of his day, with football being his favorite.

On Dec. 7, 2015, Tomiko passed away, after a battle with cancer.

Lee’s nephew, James, would always stop and visit Lee on his work travels in the Reedsport area, sometimes staying overnight before traveling home to Astoria. Lee moved to Astoria in 2018 to live closer to his nephew, James, and lived there until his passing on June 10, 2021.

Lee was preceded in death by his brothers, Bob and Lanny, and his sister, Judy. He is survived by his sisters, Janet, Linda and Laveta, along with his nieces and nephews.

Lee always had a great sense of humor, joking with doctors, medics and nurses, even when he was very ill. He was a very kind man and always a great listener. We treasure our memories of good times with Lee and the positive impact on our lives.

**Judith Paulsen Clark**  
Grapeview, Washington  
June 21, 1949 — June 22, 2021

It was June 21, 1949, the first day of summer in Astoria, that a beautiful baby girl was gifted by God to Mr. Richard C. Paulsen and his wife, Mrs. Myrtle L. Paulsen. They would name their fair-haired brown-eyed new love Judith Carolyn Paulsen.

Judy, as she liked to be called, would grow up steeped in the rich traditions of her Norwegian and Swedish heritages. Judy would graduate from Astoria High School in 1967, and serve as an Astoria Regatta princess that year.

Judy attended Clatsop Community College, Portland College of Business and earned a bachelor’s degree at Oregon State University in 1975.

Judy married Willard (Bill) Koller in 1976. They had a daughter, Brienne, prior to moving to the town of Belfair, Washington, in 1983. Taylor, the son of Judy and Bill, was born after their arrival in Belfair.

Judy was a member of the Clatsop County Historical Society, and would travel back to Astoria to help each year at the Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival selling buttons and wrist bands.

Judy worked for her father in the Owl Drug Store while in high school and college. She later worked in Belfair as a librarian aide, volunteered at local schools, was a receptionist and an assistant to six agents in the Reid Real Estate office.

Judy’s marriage with Bill didn’t work out, and they later divorced. In 1998, Judy married Norman Clark.

Judy retired at age 62, but kept busy maintaining the house and gardens, traveling every other week to Astoria to assist her mother and father until their passing, babysitting grandchildren, crocheting, sewing, card-making and scrapbooking.

Another major hobby Judy had was cooking. She had married a skinny man, but he didn’t stay that way.

Besides her husband, Norman, Judy is survived by: her sister, Diane Baxter, of Belfair; her brother, Richard (Ric) Paulsen, and his wife, Judy, of Warrenton; daughter, Brienne Eubanks (Andrew); son, Taylor Koller (Autumn); two granddaughters, Tatum and Riley Koller; three stepchildren, Jennifer Burton (George Sr.) and Sam and Travis Clark (Indra); and three step-grandchildren, George Jr. and Jack Burton and Jace Clark.

Judy has always had an unshakable faith in God and Our Lord Jesus Christ. Her church homes include First Lutheran in Astoria, Christ Lutheran in Belfair and North Bay Lutheran Community Church in Allyn, Washington.

Her serving the Lord included being on the church council, singing in, and sometimes directing, the choir and serving during communion.

Arrangements are being made for her burial in Warrenton at Ocean View Cemetery near her parents with her husband to be beside her when God calls him home.



Judith Clark

**Phillip Robert Ropkins**  
Salem  
Feb. 1, 1931 — June 21, 2021



Phillip Robert Ropkins was born Feb. 1, 1931, in Seattle, to George and Doris (Graham) Ropkins.

He spent his early years in the Seattle area before his family relocated to Milwaukie when he was in grade school. Phillip’s two siblings were much older than he, so for much of his childhood it was as if he were an only child.

Growing up, Phillip’s dad worked as pit boss at the Portland International Raceway and often took Phillip to the track. This ignited a love of racing in Phillip, and he made many great memories hanging out at the track helping his dad.

After graduating from Milwaukie High School in 1949, Phillip enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, where he worked in supply at Larson Air Force Base in Washington state.

Phillip married Francine Majhor in 1952, and the couple had three children together. After serving for six years in the Air Force, Phillip enlisted in the Oregon Army National Guard. He and Francine parted ways in 1959.

After his marriage ended, Phillip reconnected with a high school classmate, and the two fell in love. On July 18, 1962, Phillip married Lois DuBruille, and they had a son together.

Phillip retired from military service on Feb. 1, 1986.

Phillip was passionate about all sports of all kinds, especially baseball, and his beloved Seattle Mariners. He would watch any sport on TV, even high school base-

ball, just to be watching sports.

Growing up at the track instilled a lifelong love of all kinds of car racing, and he enjoyed watching any of the races. Phillip also had a passion for military history and books and never stopped learning. He was also a master of puns and word play, and would keep his family smiling, always.

Most recently Phillip was living in Warrenton. He always took good care of himself and was active and independent. Even at the age of 90, he had just renewed his driver’s license, and was doing his own grocery shopping and living independently.

When his health declined, his daughter moved him to Salem, so she could care for him. It was a great mercy that he did not suffer long, and passed away peacefully on June 21, 2021, at his daughter’s home in Salem.

He will be laid to rest at Willamette National Cemetery next to his beloved wife, Lois, who passed away in 2006.

Phillip was preceded in death by his wife, Lois; his parents, George and Doris Ropkins; and his sons, Gilbert Ropkins and Steven “Mitch” Ropkins.

He is survived by his daughter, Christie J. Bravo; son, Jay Ropkins; grandchildren, Nathan R. Ropkins, Valdez G. Bravo, Timmothy J. Ropkins, Trisha A. Ropkins, Nicholas Ropkins, Tyler Ropkins and Shelby Ropkins; great-grandchildren, Eric Ropkins and Aloni Lo Bravo; and great-great-grandson, Samuel Ropkins.



Phillip Ropkins

**Eugene William Freese**  
Astoria  
Feb. 26, 1935 — June 15, 2021

Eugene William (Gene) Freese passed away peacefully on June 15, 2021, at the Portland Veterans Affairs Medical Center after a six-year battle with acute chronic respiratory failure. His wife, Evelyn, and son, Michael, were present.

Gene was born on Feb. 26, 1935, in Santa Rosa, California, to Martha Caroline (Hoffman) and William Freese.

Gene served as a machinist mate E-5 in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War from 1952 to 1956, and was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, United Nations Medal and the China Service Medal.

After Gene’s honorable discharge, he met Margaret Evelyn Dyer (Evelyn), of Myrtle Creek, and they were married in 1956.

Gene received a degree in mortuary science in San Francisco in 1958, and worked as a mortician and funeral director in Hillsboro, and then Cottage Grove, before moving to Astoria in 1978 to begin a new career in commercial fishing.

Then, in 1984, he opened Gene’s Home Repair to serve the residents of Clatsop County.

Gene was an avid deer and elk hunter and an Oregon Hunters Association education instructor. He enjoyed sport fishing and was an expert wood craftsman.

Gene was a member of the Elks Lodge, North American Fishing Club, Jaycees, Cottage Grove Prospectors and Gold Diggers, National Rifle Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Bethany Free Lutheran Church in Astoria.

Gene was loved by his family and friends, and he will be remembered, and greatly missed, for his ingenuity and skill at solving many problems, whether mechanical or structural.

Gene is survived by his wife, Evelyn Freese, of Astoria; daughter, Debra Terrou, of Sweet Home; son, Michael, and his wife, Cheryl Freese, of Kenya; daughter, Barbara Turns, of Spokane, Washington; sister, Roberta (Freese) Novak, of Apollo Beach, Florida; brother, Robert Freese, of Medford; five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews; and many friends.

A memorial service will be held on July 17 at 11 a.m. at Bethany Free Lutheran Church, 451 34th St. in Astoria. For questions, call or text 541-213-7763 or 949-462-4396.



Eugene Freese



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.

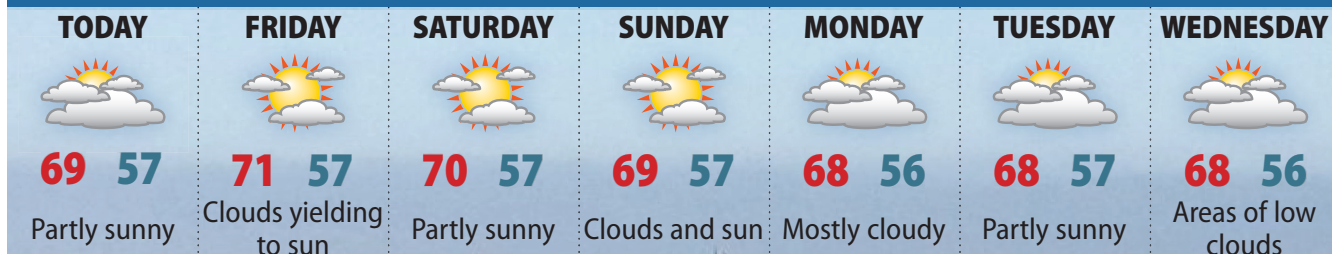
Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

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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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA



ALMANAC

Astoria through Tuesday  
**Temperatures**  
High/low ..... 68/60  
Normal high/low ..... 66/52  
Record high ..... 93 in 1908  
Record low ..... 42 in 1966  
**Precipitation**  
Tuesday ..... Trace  
Month to date ..... 1.91"  
Normal month to date ..... 2.49"  
Year to date ..... 37.27"  
Normal year to date ..... 35.85"

UNDER THE SKY

**Tonight’s Sky:** Leo the Lion will be disappearing into the western horizon.  
Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today ..... 5:28 a.m.  
Sunset tonight ..... 9:11 p.m.  
Moonrise today ..... 1:11 a.m.  
Moonset today ..... 1:17 p.m.  
Last New First Full  
July 1 July 9 July 17 July 23

TODAY’S TIDES

**Astoria / Port Docks**  
Time High (ft.) Time Low (ft.)  
6:55 a.m. 6.1 1:19 a.m. 2.3  
7:59 p.m. 7.2 1:23 p.m. 0.8  
**Cape Disappointment**  
6:27 a.m. 6.0 12:42 a.m. 2.6  
7:41 p.m. 7.0 12:43 p.m. 0.9  
**Hammond**  
6:39 a.m. 6.4 12:56 a.m. 2.5  
7:46 p.m. 7.4 12:56 p.m. 0.9  
**Warrenton**  
6:50 a.m. 6.5 1:03 a.m. 2.4  
7:54 p.m. 7.6 1:07 p.m. 0.9  
**Knapapa**  
7:32 a.m. 6.4 2:20 a.m. 2.0  
8:36 p.m. 7.4 2:24 p.m. 0.7  
**Depoe Bay**  
5:43 a.m. 6.0 12:12 a.m. 2.6  
6:58 p.m. 7.2 12:08 p.m. 0.7

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	86/72/pc	77/65/t
Boston	81/65/t	68/60/t
Chicago	75/58/pc	73/59/pc
Dallas	93/76/t	86/74/t
Denver	81/60/t	84/61/t
Honolulu	88/75/pc	87/75/pc
Houston	92/76/t	92/77/pc
Los Angeles	83/66/pc	84/66/pc
Miami	87/77/sh	88/78/t
New York City	84/69/t	75/65/t
Phoenix	104/87/pc	104/88/pc
San Francisco	72/61/pc	73/60/pc
Wash., DC	87/71/t	79/66/t

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.

REGIONAL FORECAST

